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THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

A CONJECTURAL GLANCE AT THE FUTURE.

THEY who have known what it is to conduct an experiment, in which they took the deepest interest, to the very portals of success—whose alternate disappointments and realisations, whose previous thoughts, anxieties, hopes, and fears, were on the eve of producing the long-expected fruit—whose calculations, repeatedly turned over for re-examination, have borne the weight of favourable anticipations, but whose eagerness for the result rendered them lynx-eyed to discern the remotest chances of failure—will understand us when we say that we look forward to Tuesday next—the day fixed for the assembling of the Anti-state-church Conference—with trembling solicitude. Strange as at first sight it may appear, our emotions are excited, not by any indications which menace an unhappy issue, but by the entire absence of them. Matters are in so well-ordered a train—prospects hold out such cheering promises—it appears so certain that events will correspond with the hopes we have cherished respecting them—that the very possibility of miscarriage pains us. Our expectations, nourished by the past, and feeding with full satisfaction on the present, have grown to that sensitiveness, that they can hardly bear to look upon even the suspicion that there can be danger. The cup is so well filled—so seasoned to our taste—so near our parched and fevered lips—that we shrink even from the supposition, improbable as we see it to be, that any hand can dash it aside before we have drained it of its contents. We resemble mariners whose gallant ship, after contending with many a boisterous gale, heaves, at length, within sight of her destined haven—and who, although favoured with fair winds and pleasant weather, cannot divest themselves of the feeling that some accident may yet occur to make shipwreck of their hopes.

Nor do we think that, under all circumstances, our solicitude is unnatural. Never did greater occasion draw together for deliberation a number of earnest men. It is quite impossible to over-rate the importance of the question with which the Conference proposes to deal. The union of the church with the state is, unfortunately, no speculative abstraction, but a potent, a terrible, an all-pervading reality—a principle which upwards of a thousand years' practice has constituted one of the main elements of our social system. It has fashioned the thoughts of all modern European statesmen, and enters, as an ingredient, into all their conclusions. It has interlaced the whole framework of civil government. It penetrates and tinges the most ordinary habits of society. It exerts an influence, more or less direct, upon almost every conceivable relationship between man and man. The state, released from its pressure, would soon expand into a goodly and beneficent power. The church of Christ would renew her youth, and would recover a freshness and an energy which have long been imagined to have departed from her for ever. What vast and multitudinous interests, secular and spiritual, await the peaceful settlement of this question! Who can pretend to foresee the consequences, in their whole extent, which such a settlement would eventually bring about? The subject is one of awful magnitude, and links itself, as it were, with both worlds. And, assuredly, the first direct and united attempt to handle it in such manner as becomes its vastness

of moral import, may well awaken a nervous anxiety for the success of so noble an effort. The Conference will assemble to deal, not with the temporary and civil rights of this class or of that, but with matters affecting the highest interests of the whole world.

It will assemble in presence of a keenly-scrutinising, a determined, and a powerful foe. Worldly wisdom will watch it with a scornful eye. Cultivated intellect, prescriptive authority, wit, fashion, respectability, will be ranged against it. Every trip will be made available for hostile comment. Every act will be examined—every speech searched through and through—every resolution analysed by a variety of tests. The smallest instance of unbecoming conduct—the slightest irrelevancy or inconsiderateness of expression—all that is unsuited to the dignity of the occasion—will be converted into food for the especial enjoyment of ecclesiastical malignity. Nothing may be expected to escape the vigilance of those against whose favourite system the Conference will take up a position of resolute antagonism. They will fasten, with tenacious gripe, upon the first defect which shows itself. They will let fly their shafts at every joint of our armour. They will scan, not merely the words which are uttered, but the very tone and spirit of the proceedings from the commencement to the close. There are those, too, even among professing friends, who will be on the look-out for mistakes—and who would hardly regret to discover, in the temper or the acts of the Conference, a plausible justification for having stood aloof from it. All this will demand more than ordinary circumspection—and this enhances our anxiety for complete success.

The main feature of our mind, however, at the present moment, is confidence. We expect great results. We feel ourselves warranted in taking for granted the singleness of purpose of the overwhelming majority of the delegates appointed. We believe them to be men in earnest—men who fully appreciate the magnitude of the question which will, next week, engage their consideration. As such, we apprehend from them nothing, either by way of speech or resolution, unsuitable to the occasion. Their hearts, exclusively occupied by one desire—and that desire, just, benevolent, and true—will instinctively recoil from whatever is obviously out of keeping with this their prominent characteristic. Such men can neither be trifling nor violent—the immense importance of the object they aim to promote, and the solemn sense of responsibility which they cannot but be conscious of, will forbid either. Many doubt this—but why? Simply forasmuch as they do not themselves see the matter in its graver light. No! this is not the ordinary tone of men in earnest. A calm energy—a pervading seriousness of spirit—a mind thoroughly awake—every passion under check—conscience enthroned in state, and all inferior powers and susceptibilities awed by its presence—this, we take it, will be the mental cast of every representative in that assembly. We look for firmness without temerity—a resolute adherence to principle, devoid of all intermixture of a fiery kind—a moral courage which will flinch from no sound conclusion, hand in hand with a courtesy which will inflict no unnecessary wound—an enmity to evil systems combined with charity towards their supporters—in a word, Christian love performing that duty which best becomes it—aiming a blow at what is found to be one of the most serious impediments to the success of the gospel.

Should these, our anticipations, be realised by the event—and, assuredly, all probabilities point in that direction—the moral effect upon the dissenting community of the Anti-state-church Conference of 1844, will be likely to transcend the expectations of the most sanguine of its friends. A new era will dawn upon us—a mighty but peaceful revolution will set in. Unlike the general awakening which was excited by the Factories Education bill, and which subsided as soon as the pressure which caused it was withdrawn, this movement, springing out of regard to immutable principles, will be tranquil, deep, permanent, and progressive. Ere long it will number amongst its warmest friends the very men who now look upon it with suspicion. Commenced in solemn deliberation, it will speedily gather around it all who are sincere—all who really desire the liberation of Christianity from state thralldom. The work of instructing our people in a knowledge of their own

tenets will be begun in earnest, and be followed up with perseverance. Every nonconforming congregation will, at no distant period, become a band of witnesses to the truth. Society will be no longer in doubt respecting us—will no longer be able to despise us. Opinion, even in the outer world, will, where it is now with us, exhibit itself without reserve—where it is against us, undergo a rapid change. There is much to do—but there is also much to cheer. Let but the Conference accomplish its task as befits its importance—and the knell of state-churchism will be rung. The beginning of the end will have become a fact of history.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.

[It will be seen, from the subjoined list of representatives to the ensuing Conference, that our anticipations, as to numbers, have been more than realised. This list, with the accounts previously published, comprises about 450 names; so that it is probable that, with the returns not yet received, the number of representatives will amount to about 500. We leave our readers to form their own opinions, from the names before them, of the character, influence, and talents, which will be represented in the Conference.]

REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTED.

ABERDEEN.—Carlile, Mr J., pastor; Tarring, Mr J.
AYLSHAM.—Bane, Mr John, pastor; Sandall, Mr R. Baptist.
AUCHTERARDER.—Jacque, Mr G., pastor. Relief and secession churches.
ALBERTON, NEAR WOODBRIDGE.—Draper, Mr J. S. Independent.
ALBION CHAPEL, MOORGATE.—Kirk, Mr W.; Gilfillan, Mr W.
ACCRINGTON.—Harbottle, Mr J., classical tutor of the Baptist academy; Bennett, Mr T., student. Baptist.
BACUP.—Dawson, Mr T., pastor. Baptist. Second baptist church, and representing also Goodshaw, Rossendale.
BACUP.—Todd, Mr S., pastor. Baptist.
BATH (York Street chapel and Providence chapel).—Edridge, John, Esq.; Stephens, Mr J. M., pastor, of Yorkshire; Cox, Mr G.
BALLINA.—Bates, Mr J., pastor. Baptist.
BANNOCKBURN.—Smith, Mr W., pastor. Secession.
BELTON, RUTLANDSHIRE.—Whitlock, Mr H., pastor; Kent, Mr Francis, sen. Baptist.
BERMONDSEY (Jamaica row).—Dovey, Mr J. E. Baptist.
BEWLEY (Baptist chapel).—White, Mr E., pastor.
BIRMINGHAM.—Joseph Sturge, Esq.; Mr T. H. Morgan, baptist minister; Councillor Barlow (Wesleyan); Mr J. H. Wilson, independent.
BISHOPS STORTFORD.—Hodgkins, Mr Benjamin; Pratt, Mr, pastor. Baptist.
BLOCKLEY.—Stalker, Mr A. M.; Fuller, Mr A. G., pastor, of Bow. Baptist.
BLABY, NEAR LEICESTER.—Barnett, Mr John, pastor; Carey, Mr Eustace, pastor. Baptist.
BOCKING.—Tabor, Charles, Esq.; Shearcroft, Mr. Independent.
BRADFORD (Horton college).—Acworth, Mr James, M.A., president; Clowes, Mr F., classical tutor. Baptist.
BRENTWOOD.—Butler, Mr, of Childerditch hall. Independent.
BRISTOL.—Hillyard, Mr B. Wesleyan. Appointed by 100.
BRISTOL.—Waite, Mr J. J., independent minister; Norris, Mr Robert. Appointed by 100.
BRISTON (Wesleyan chapel).—Wherry, Mr J., pastor, baptist; Colman, Mr Joseph. Public meeting.
BUCKINGHAM (Ebenezer chapel).—Messrs Harris and Cousins.
BRULAM CHAPEL (Commercial road).—Young, Mr Edward, Hart street, Cripplegate; Quincy, Mr W., Jubilee place. General baptist.
BRIGHTON.—Edwards, Mr James, pastor. Independent.
BRIDGEWATER.—Jenkyn, Dr; Trend, Mr H., pastor.
BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.—Bonner, Mr W. H., pastor; Dimmock, E. B., Esq.
BROSELEY, SALOP.—Newth, Mr Samuel, pastor.
BIRMINGHAM (Wesleyan Methodist Association).—Eckett, Mr R., pastor; Pearson, Mr E., pastor.
BURY (Bethel chapel).—Bateson, H., Esq., M.B.; Newth, Mr E. Independent.
CANTERBURY (St John's chapel).—Cater, Mr Philip, pastor. Baptist.
CHATTERIS (Zion chapel).—Palmer, Mr W., pastor.
CHATHAM (Ebenezer chapel).—Thomson, Mr P., pastor; Shrewsbury, Mr R. H. Independent.
CHALFONT ST GILES.—Newlyn, Mr P., pastor.
COLEFORD (Blakeney Tabernacle, independent; Little Dean's Woodside, baptist; Little Dean, independent; Little London, baptist).—Philps, Mr A. R., pastor, Blakeney Tabernacle.

COLEFORD, CHEPSTOW, AND LYDNEY.—Penny, Mr J., pastor, of London; Nicholson, Mr T., of Lydney. Baptist.

COLCHESTER.—Frazer, Mr Alex., pastor; Morris, David, Esq.—(Lion Walk).—Davids, Mr T. W., pastor; Chaplin, Mr John. Independent.

COWARD COLLEGE.—Smith, Mr Gustavus W.; Fison, Mr T. Independent.

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF SCOTLAND.—Cullen, Mr G. D., pastor, of Leith.

COLDSTREAM, NORTH BRITAIN.—Thomson, Dr; Sanderson, R. B., Esq.

CORK.—King, Mr A., pastor; Logan, Crawford, Mr W., independent.

COWLING HILL.—Watson, Mr N., pastor. Baptist.

CUPAR, FIFESHIRE.—Besley, R., Esq., London; Mabbs, Mr R., London. Public meeting.

DARWEN, LANCASHIRE.—Porter, Mr S. T., pastor; Ashton, Mr T. Independent.

DALKEITH.—Brown, Mr J., pastor. Public meeting.

DERBY.—Gordon, Mr A., A.M., pastor; Campbell, W., Esq. Public meeting.

DERBY.—Poile, Mr W. F., pastor. Baptist.

DISS, NORFOLK.—Lewis, Mr J. P., pastor; Huxtable, W., Esq. Baptist.

DAINSMOWDDY.—Davis, Edward, Esq.

DEVONPORT (Morris square).—Pinsent, Savery, Esq.; Rodford, Mr G. E. Baptist.

DUNFERMLINE.—McMichael, Mr N., professor of theology; Beveridge, Erskine, Esq. Public meeting.

DOWNTON.—Bowser, W., Esq., of London; Stork, Mr, of Kentish town. Baptist.

DENBIGH, NORTH WALES.—Price, Mr David, pastor. Independent.

DUNSTABLE.—Gould, Mr Daniel, pastor; Gutteridge, Mr. Baptist.

EAST DEREHAM, NORFOLK.—Cooper, John, Esq. Baptist.

EDINBURGH (Abbey street congregational church).—Somerville, Mr W., jun.; Russell, Mr Thomas.

EUSTON SQUARE (Melton place).—Preston, Mr John, pastor. General baptist.

EARL'S BARTON.—Phillips, Mr T., pastor. Baptist.

FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE.—Elford, Mr A.; Drew, Mr John. Independent.

GLASGOW.—Marshall, Dr; McFarlane, Dr.

GLOUCESTER.—White, Mr, pastor, Countess of Huntingdon; Higgs, Mr W. Wesleyan. Meeting of Wesleyans, independents, Countess of Huntingdon, and baptists.

HACKNEY (Mare street).—Cox, Dr, pastor; Hare, Mr J. M., deacon. Baptist.

HARLESTON.—Laidler, Mr Stephen, pastor; Priest, Richard, Esq.

HADHAM, LITTLE, HERTS.—Baker, Mr Benjamin, Tunbridge; Mummery, Mr W. S., Homerton.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.—Price, Mr James, pastor; Buttfield, Mr W. Public meeting.

HUNSLY.—Williams, Mr J., pastor; Pellatt, A., Esq.

IRELAND (South Baptist Association of Ireland).—Gould, Mr, pastor.

ST IVES.—Davis, Mr Eliel, pastor. Baptist.

IPSWICH (Nicholas chapel).—Whitby, Mr John, pastor.

ISLEHAM.—Rees, Mr D., pastor. First baptist.

IPSWICH (Stoke green).—Webb, Mr J., pastor; Lacey, R., Esq. Baptist.

KINGSLAND ROAD (Phillips street).—Dukes, Mr C., pastor; King, Mr. Independent.

KETTERING.—Robinson, Mr W., pastor, baptist; Spence, Mr John, independent. Public meeting.

LLANRHAIADR.—Evans, Allen Emerson, Esq. Representing several churches.

LEICESTER (Bond street).—Smedmore, Mr Joseph, pastor; Baines, Mr W. Independent.

LEICESTER.—Wig, Mr Samuel, pastor; Coleman, Mr. General baptist church, Friar lane.

LEICESTER (Carley street).—Winks, Joseph F. General baptist.

LLANGOLLEN.—Pritchard, Mr John. Baptist.

LIVERPOOL (three Welsh independent churches).—Rees, Mr W., pastor; Pierce, Mr T., pastor; Thomas, Mr R., pastor; Evans, Mr W.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD.—Cooper, Mr J., pastor. Second baptist church.

LOWESTOFT (Old meeting-house).—Rogers, Mr John. Independent.

LLANSANTFFRAID, MONTGOMERYSHIRE.—Jones, David, Esq.

LEOMINSTER.—Jones, Mr Maurice, pastor. Baptist.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Parr, Richard, Esq., of London. General baptist.

LAMBETH.—Frazer, Mr W., pastor; Doulton, Mr John, senior. Baptist.

LEEDS (Belgrave street congregation).—Fox, Mr J., pastor; Evans, J. C., Esq. Baptist.

LEEDS.—Giles, Mr J. E., pastor; Richardson, Mr J. Baptist.

LEEDS (Queen street chapel).—Jay and Strutt, Messrs.

LEEDS.—Tunnacliffe, Mr J., pastor; Gower, W., Esq. General baptist.

LEEDS.—Glover, W. H.; Soul, Mr. Wesleyan association.

LEDBURY.—Davis, Mr J. E., pastor. Baptist.

LONDON.—Mr Jeffreys, of Bath. By 100 signatures.

LONDONDERRY.—Gordon, Mr A., pastor.

LYNN.—Wigner, Mr J. T., pastor; Cook, Mr Thomas. Baptist.

MONTGOMERYSHIRE (Independent churches).—Morgan, Mr D., pastor, of Llanfyllin; Roberts, Mr Samuel, M.A., pastor, of Llanbrynmair, pastor; Evans, A. E., Esq.; Jones, D., Esq. Meeting at Llanfyllin.

MARKET HARBOROUGH.—Toller, Mr H., pastor. Independent.

MOSTYN, NEAR HOLYWELL, FLINTSHIRE.—Williams, Mr Edward, pastor; Jones, John, Esq. 68, Gibson square, Islington. Independent.

MANCHESTER.—McKerrow, Mr W., pastor; McCall, Mr W. Scotch Secession church.

MANCHESTER (York street).—Thomson, Mr C., pastor; Hull, Mr J. Baptist.

MEOPHAM, NEAR GRAVESEND.—Pope, Mr W., pastor; Ludford, Mr W.

MIDDLETON.—Brown, Mr Joseph.

MUSLEY.—Symons, Mr W., pastor; Hall, Mr R., of Stepney college. Baptist.

MAIDSTONE (Bethel chapel).—Green, Mr Samuel, of Walworth, pastor.

NARBOROUGH, NEAR LEICESTER.—Bedford, Mr W., pastor.

NORWICH (Orford Hill chapel).—Bignold, Mr T.; Parker, Mr Samuel. Baptist.

NORWICH (parish of St George of Colegate).—Tillett, J. H., Esq.; Coleman, J., jun., Esq.

NORWOOD.—Kent, Mr B., pastor; Wood, Mr. Independent.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—Pringle, Mr James, pastor; Sanderson, R. B., Esq., jun. Public meeting.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE (Tuthill stairs).—Angus, Mr Henry; Moore, Mr Mark. Baptist.

NOTTINGHAM (George street).—Edwards, Mr James, pastor; Frearson, Mr H. Baptist.

NORTHOWRAM, NEAR HALIFAX.—Rutt, George, Esq., of Clapton. Independent.

NORTHAMPTON.—Tunley, Mr R., pastor; Derby, Mr P. Baptist.

NORTHAMPTON (College street).—Brown, Mr J. T., pastor; Bartram, Mr R. Baptist.

NEWTOWN, ABERHOSAN, AND LLANBRYNMAIR (Independent congregations).—Roberts, Mr Samuel, pastor.

NORTHAMPTON (Castle Hill chapel).—Moore, G., Jeffery, G., Messrs.

NEWTONARDS, DOWN, IRELAND.—Bates, Mr, Ballina.

PERTH AND VICINITY.—Young, Dr; Thompson, Mr R., pastor. Public meeting.

PETERHEAD.—Shepherd, Mr H., of Camberwell. Independent.

PERTH.—Pellatt, Apsley, Esq.

PONTYPOOL COLLEGE.—Thomas, Mr T., president; Pugh, Mr David, of the London University. Baptist.

POTTERNEWTON.—Viney, Mr J., pastor; Dixon, Mr B.

ROCHDALE.—Burchell, Mr W. F., pastor. Baptist.

REIGATE.—Rees, Mr T., pastor. Independent.

RODBOROUGH (Tabernacle, near Stroud).—Backhouse, Mr Benjamin, pastor.

RATCLIFFE (Queen street meeting).—Halliday, Mr E., pastor; Hooper, John, Esq., of Mill Wall. Independent.

RHYDYBOL, NONNI, AND BRYNTEG.—Jenkyn, Dr, president of Coward college, London; Winfield, John Walter, Esq., of Llanfihangel, near Carmarthen. Independent.

RICKMANSWORTH.—Harcourt, Mr J., pastor; Dawson, Mr G., M.A., pastor. Baptist.

SCARBOROUGH.—Evans, Mr B., pastor; Wheldon, Mr John. Baptist.

SALTGOATS, AYRSHIRE.—Hasler, Mr J., of London. Public meeting.

SHARNBROOK, BEDS.—Williams, Mr T., pastor; Knighton, Mr G. W., of Stepney. Baptist.

STERLING.—Ridley, W., Esq.; Dixon, Mr Joseph. Independent.

SUDBURY (United meeting of baptists and independents).—Higgs, Mr Samuel.

SUNDERLAND (Sans street).—Wilson, Mr Allen, pastor; Thompson, Mr Oliver.

SOUTHWARK (Borough road chapel).—Stevenson, Mr John, A.M., pastor; Gover, Mr John, Cole street, Dover road. General baptist.

STEPNEY CONGREGATION.—Glanville, Mr John, pastor; Moore, Mr John. Independent.

STRADBROOK (baptist).—Bayne, Mr R., pastor.

STOURBRIDGE.—Richards, Mr John, pastor. Independent.

SHEFFIELD.—Larom, Mr Charles, pastor. Baptist.

SWAFFHAM.—Box, T., Esq., Poultry.

STAPLEHURST, KENT.—Jull, Mr W.

STOCKPORT (third baptist church).—Davies, Mr Samuel.

SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN, YORKSHIRE (baptist chapel).—Green, Mr John.

SYSTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.—Jones, Mr James; Liggins, Mr John.

TRIVERTON.—Stuart, Mr Stephen; Lankester, Dr.

TRING.—Wycheley, Mr T. E., pastor.

TUTBURY, NEAR BURTON-ON-TRENT.—Morris, Mr R., pastor. Independent.

THEFTORD (independent chapel).—Ashley, Mr John, pastor; Brown, Mr H.

THORNBURY (independent and baptist congregations).—Cross, Mr W. J., pastor.

TUNBRIDGE.—Day, Mr T., pastor.

THAME.—Wiffin, Mr W. H., pastor; Johnson, Mr W. Independent and baptist.

TAVISTOCK.—Trelawney, J. S., Esq., M.P.; Penrose, Mr J.

ULLESTHORPE, LEICESTERSHIRE.—Miall, Mr G. R., pastor; Mudie, Mr Charles, 28, Upper King street, Bloomsbury. Independent.

WATERFORD.—Hardcastle, Mr C., pastor. Baptist.

WHITFIELD CHAPEL (London).—Brake, Mr C., pastor; Attfield, Mr G. Independent.

WITHAM.—Robinson, Mr R., pastor; Dixon, Mr R. W.

WOODBURIDGE (Beaumont chapel).—Ross, Mr John, pastor; Smith, Mr James. Independent.

WORTWELL, BY HARLESTON.—Woodward, Mr H. B., pastor; Childs, Mr John, of Bungay. Independent.

WARRINGTON, PRESCOTT, AND NEWTON.—Murray, Mr Robert, pastor, of Newton; Rylands, Mr Peter, of Warrington. Independent.

WORCESTER.—Hardy, Robert, Esq.; Thompson, G., Esq., of London. Appointed by 100.

WETHERIDGE, CREDITON, DEVON (United congregations on Home Missionary stations).—Wallis, Mr Edward, Skinner street; Cutting, Mr John, Oxford street.

WICK AND ALNWICK.—Ritchie, Dr, of Edinburgh.

WIKKSWORTH.—Underwood, Mr W., of Paddington, pastor. General baptist.

WORCESTERSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Crowe, Mr W., of Worcester; Overbury, Mr F., of Pershore. Baptist. Meeting at Pershore.

WINCHESTER.—Thorn, Mr W., pastor; Bourne, W., Esq. Independent.

WOODBURIDGE, SUFFOLK.—Hayward, Mr T., pastor.

WRENTHAM, SUFFOLK.—Ritchie, Mr J. E.

WRITTE.—Law, Mr J. B., pastor; Challis, W., Esq. Independent.

WORSTEAD, NORFOLK.—Keen, Mr C. T., pastor.

WADDESDON (baptist chapel).—Grainger, Mr H. G., pastor.

WALWORTH (Horsley street).—Lemaire, Mr R. G., pastor; Packer, Mr John.

WYCLIFFE.—Glanville, Mr John, pastor; Moore, Mr John. Appointed by 100.

WYCLIFFE CHAPEL (London).—Woodyard, Mr B., pastor; Fry, T. H., Esq. 200 signatures.

YARMOUTH.—Goss, Mr W., pastor. General Baptist.

APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES FROM THE EAST OF LONDON.—On Monday evening last, a public meeting of the opponents of church establishments in the east of London (convened by the East London Religious Liberty Society), was held at the Stepney Meeting School rooms, and was numerously attended. Mr Edward Miall took the chair. The chairman in his opening remarks explained at length the objects of the Conference; an explanation which was the more necessary from the movement having been misunderstood in some quarters, and sedulously misrepresented in others. He believed that it would prove preeminently successful; that the number of delegates would be large, and that they would be men of high character and great ability, and that the results could not but be favourable. Mr T. W. Aveling, of Kingsland, independent minister, moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting, believing church establishments to be both injurious to the interests of religion and productive of numerous political and social evils, is deeply impressed with the necessity of adopting such earnest and systematic measures as may lead to their speedy and entire abolition." The speaker enforced the resolution by remarking upon the corruption and impurities which resulted to the church from its alliance with the state, and quoted instances in which that alliance had been equally injurious in hampering and crippling the state. The promoters of the Conference had been grievously misrepresented, but he doubted not they would vindicate their plan and win the praise of those who now opposed them. Josiah Conder, Esq., seconded the resolution. He objected to establishments because they admitted the principle that the state had the power of deciding what was truth—on economical grounds, inasmuch as they offered a bounty or bribe, which had the effect of vitiating the article—because they involved taxation for religion, which was an infringement upon the rights of conscience—because they took away from the people the right of choosing their own pastor—and because they involved the odious principle of religious persecution. Dr Cox then moved the second resolution, "That the proposal to hold a conference of the friends of religious liberty throughout the country, with a view to commencing a serious movement for the enlightening of the public mind on the evils of church establishments, commends itself to the judgment of this meeting, as being called for by the events of the present times, and eminently calculated for the promotion of the object which it is designed to accomplish." Dr Cox, who was warmly received and repeatedly applauded during his remarks, combated the objections taken against the Conference, objections which, he was happy to say, were being hourly removed. The Baptist Union, which represented nine hundred churches, had that day expressed their approval of the Conference. Mr Halliday contended that the movement was in harmony with the genius of the times. He had high expectations with regard to its success, as it would, he doubted not, falsify the predictions of open foes and professed friends. Mr W. Brock, baptist minister from Norwich, was received with great applause. He was determined, though at some inconvenience, to express, on behalf of the dissenters of Norwich, their gratitude to the friends of religious liberty in the east of London, for the sympathy they had shown towards their persecuted fellow dissenters at Norwich. He then entered into a variety of interesting and amusing particulars respecting the proceedings of the archdeacon and his clergy. He had no intention of overlooking the monster grievance, but he begged them not to forget minor grievances. Mr George Rose, of Rotherhithe, proposed the appointment of Dr Bowring, M.P., and Dr Pye Smith, as delegates from that meeting to the Conference, and was seconded by Ebenezer Clark, Esq., who spoke of Dr Bowring as a man of great knowledge and consummate honesty, and of Dr Smith as one whose character required no praise from him. The resolutions were all unanimously carried. Thanks having been voted to Mr Miall and Dr Cox, for their kind attendance, the meeting dispersed at a late hour.

LEICESTER.—A meeting of the congregation assembling at Bond street chapel in this town, was held on Thursday evening for the purpose of appointing delegates to the approaching conference. The Rev. Joseph Smedmore, minister of the chapel, opened

the proceedings of the evening with prayer, and followed by an appropriate address on the present position of nonconformists, and the proposed objects of the Conference. The sentiments and feelings of the meeting were then embodied in the following resolution:—

That this meeting—regarding the connexion between the church and the state as a gross violation of the dictates of scripture, as utterly repugnant to the genius of Christianity as most offensive in the sight of God, most obstructive to the progress of truth, and most disastrous to the highest interest of man—desires to express its approbation of the proposed Anti-state-church Conference, and its hope and belief that it will prove one of the most likely means to prepare the way for the abolition of establishments of religion in every land which they burden or blast.

The Rev. J. Smedmore and Mr William Baines (the well-known church-rate victim, and whose property has just been flched—as it has frequently been before—by the state-church authorities) were requested to attend the sittings of the Conference on behalf of the society; and the meeting pledged itself to endeavour to obtain pecuniary aid, to carry out the designs of the Conference.—*Leicester Mercury*.

PUBLIC MEETING AT GLASGOW.

At the request of the directors of the Glasgow Association for Promoting Religious Liberty, a public meeting of the members, and others friendly to sending a deputation to the Anti-state-church Conference to be held in London, took place in Dr Wardlaw's chapel, West George street, on Monday evening, the 15th inst. On the platform were, Baines Hamilton and Anderson, Dr King, of Greyfriars' church, Dr Macfarlane, of Erskine church, Mr Wm Anderson, of John street chapel, Mr James Paterson, of Hope street chapel, Mr Alex. Duncan, of East Regent street, and Dr Watson; also, Messrs Bruce, Strang, and other gentlemen friendly to the object of the meeting. On the motion of Bailie Anderson, Bailie Hamilton was unanimously called to the chair.

The CHAIRMAN, who on rising was received with cheering, said:—

The purport of our meeting this evening must be well known to every person in this assembly, and it would be a waste of your time, were I to enter into any lengthened argument to show its propriety. For a period of fully two years, the voluntary question has been but little agitated in Scotland, and that for reasons which, to every reflecting mind, will be apparent and satisfactory. Still, when the discussion raged keenly, we must not forget the obloquy which was poured upon the conscientious and honest advocates of our principles, nor the apathy of our English dissenting brethren, when their countenance and support would have cheered us on in the struggle we had to undergo. The results of that conflict have been signally auspicious, for we now see hundreds of thousands, who formerly opposed us, advocating the spiritual headship of our Divine Redeemer, yet, striving in some degree to sever, and yet to reconcile, the things that belong to Jesus, and the things that pertain to Caesar. Some of those who conscientiously opposed us, and who have as conscientiously seceded from our national establishment, have been saying, that "the voluntary question, as regards Scotland, is now at rest"—"that Scotchmen, after the excitement of the contest, have resumed their wonted good sense." But our meeting this evening will at once show to all who take an interest in this question that our principles, as well as our sense of duty, in furthering the voluntary question, are as strong and as practical as ever [cheers]. After a few further remarks, the chairman called on

Mr ANDERSON to propose the first resolution, which was to the following effect:—

That this meeting expresses its strong adherence to the voluntary principle, as just in itself, sanctioned by Scripture, and essential to the spirituality and independence of the Redeemer's kingdom.

He adverted to the subject to which reference had been made by the chairman:—

That more than four years ago they (the voluntaries) had completed their work for Scotland—that they had completely imbued the public mind with their cause, with the exception of those who were hopeless of conversion, either through self-interest or strong political feeling. This was evidenced by parliamentary elections, in connexion with which they found that the great proportion of the burgh constituencies were theirs, not to speak of the unenfranchised, who were theirs to a man; and when their opponents deprecated the ballot, they asked for the ballot that they might have evidence that they prevailed in the counties also. It was now more than eight years ago since they declared that such a conquest had been made of the state church that its existence depended solely upon the connexion of Scotland with England, and that, were the union to be repealed, a Scottish parliament, if not at its first sitting, would at least amongst its first acts, decree the abrogation of the state-established church; that their forces were ready; that they waited for England; and that, until they (the English dissenters) had done the same for the minds of their countrymen as they (the Scotch dissenters) had done for theirs, they must just rest on their arms. Whose work, he might ask, was that work—the disruption of the church of Scotland [cheers]? It was their work. This reminded him of the old maker of plays, who, although unsuccessful himself, was accustomed to attend the pit of the theatre, and, when anything occurred to draw forth the approbation of the audience, cried out, "That's mine—that's from me." A brother actor on one occasion had been successful in introducing a clap of thunder into a piece, which pleased the audience, when the old play-maker sprang up and cried, "That's my thunder" [loud laughter]. Now, whether it was his thunder or not, it was their thunder, he maintained, that produced the disruption of the church of Scotland [cheers]; it was their electricity that charged the cloud—the great cloud of witnesses, the brethren of the secession; and it was their bolt that struck the old upas tree, that now withered to its decay [loud cheers]—and there it stood, melancholy to be seen, withered enough, dry enough, sapless enough, with its branches and structure of presbyteries, and synods, and sessions, and assemblies, but deprived of its leaves, and withered to the root [cheers]. What had the voluntaries to do?

They had only to stand and look at the effects of that thunderstorm that they themselves had raised. But now they were back again: their English brethren were astir, and they must be helpful to them; helpful, not only for their own sakes—for they had a personal battle to fight—but helpful to them, for their sakes, and for the sake of the cause in which they were engaged, that the old stump of the upas tree which still cumbered the ground, might be swept out of the way [loud cheering]. It was only an English parliament that could root it out, and they would have to be helpful to them, to do for the English what they had done for themselves. But, apart from all selfish considerations, in respect of the cause itself, he would say, Let us lend them a helping hand, that the baleful effects of that church of England may be brought down.

Mr Anderson then adverted at some length to the church establishments of this country, and their injurious effects on morals and religion.

Dr MACFARLANE seconded the motion amid the plaudits of the audience. In doing so he explained that, owing to the unavoidable absence of Dr Heugh, who was to have seconded this resolution, he had been called upon to perform a duty which generally was not a very arduous one, and in the present instance was made much less so by the able address of the mover, which left him very little to do. A letter of apology had been received from Dr Heugh, which might be considered equal to the seconding of the motion. It was as follows:—

"Montrose street, April 15th, 1844.

"MY DEAR SIR—I regret that I cannot have the pleasure of being present at the meeting of the Religious Freedom Society, to be held this evening, and of taking that part in the proceedings which, at the request of the committee, I had engaged to do. The sole cause of my absence, you are aware, is the indisposition by which I was prevented from preaching yesterday. It is unnecessary for me to add that the object of the meeting this evening, and of the Anti-state-church Conference, has my most cordial approbation; and I trust and pray that the proceedings of both meetings may be so conducted, under the blessing of God, as to give a happy impulse to the cause of truth, justice, and freedom, and to prepare the way for the final severance of the ecclesiastical from the secular power in this empire. To some it seems that the agitation of this question may interfere with friendly co-operation among the various bodies of dissenters, and particularly betwixt the members of the old and of the new secession. It may be so; but such a result can have no place with any candid and enlightened Christian mind. Christian co-operation does not demand the suppression of conscientious convictions—a demand which it were not less dishonourable to advance than to concede. Co-operation in practice to the extent of their coincidence in principles is easily attainable by various Christian bodies; but this harmony is quite consistent with the honest avowal and the charitable discussion of their conscientious differences. Indeed, I am not aware of any obstruction to Christian union in our country more formidable than the civil establishment of the episcopalian and presbyterian churches, with the injustice and vexations which this establishment includes and occasions; nor of any means which it is more likely divine Providence will employ for uniting the people of God among us than the removal of this establishment, and the placing of all Christian societies on the same level. With kind regards, believe me, my dear sir, yours truly, H. HEUGH."

Dr KING, on rising to propose the second resolution, was loudly cheered. He commented at great length and with much force upon the character of the church of England, its secular character, and service as a mere political engine to the government:—

Here were four millions a year expended by the nation on the English church—to do what? To teach and diffuse divine truth? The very opposite; to preach it down; to reestablish the man of sin, and once more envelope us in the gloom of the dark ages [cheers]. He would advert, finally, to the oppressiveness of that church. He did not speak of its colleges, though dissenters were excluded from those seats of learning, and, whatever else they might teach, they were sure to inculcate exclusiveness and intolerance. Neither did he allude to the *civico-ecclesiastical* courts, though, by the admission of all statesmen, they were a scandal to the name of justice. He spoke of its political domination. It was well known that the hierarchy derived its members mostly from the nobility. By the law of primogeniture the eldest son got the estate, and his brothers had to be provided for. These junior scions of the aristocracy were mainly disposed of in two ways—they were sent to the army or to the church; and it was a matter of pure indifference, or a question of income, whether they were invested with a red coat or a black one [long and continued laughter]. The nobility then were concerned to keep up the church monopoly, and the church in return upheld their monopolies. What close system, what class interest did it not befriend? Whether it was a sugar monopoly, or a bread tax that was complained of, and to whatever extent thousands and hundreds of thousands might be suffering from the iniquity thus framed by law, the church of England stood by these abuses; and of all the obstructions it was ever the most formidable in achieving the abolition of them.

He rejoiced in the movement among English dissenters.

Whatever might be alleged against the English dissenters it was absurd to charge them with proneness to agitation; they had been lethargic to a proverb. When he (Dr King) had been in England on public questions, he found that our legislators spoke of them with scorn for their subservency. The English dissenters, they would say, if one pleaded their views and wishes—the English dissenters! they don't know their own principles; we dare not undertake a measure in reliance on their support, even to advance their own interests; though they did begin to move, the frown of a rector would stagger their resolution, and reduce them to subjection. Happily, the charge was now becoming inapplicable. The meeting was aware with what vigour and success the Factory bill of Sir James Graham had been opposed and defeated, and now the dissenters were occupying bolder ground still. The question was no longer about church rates, or marriage acts, or baptismal registrations, but about the connexion of church and state. They had ceased to pluck leaves and prune twigs; they were now laying the axe to the root, and if this measure were

successful, the upas tree would be prostrated in the dust [cheers].

He condemned the conduct of many English voluntaries, in standing aloof from the movement.

He would only remark, in conclusion, of the jealousy evinced by some amongst the English dissenters themselves of this new voluntary association. They alleged that it was of an extreme nature—of a chartist description. But where did this appear? Not in the measures themselves, for they who wished the church placed as Paul left it, might adopt his defence—"We are not mad, but speak the words of truth and soberness." Was it the men, then, that were objectionable? He saw among their names not a few distinguished for wisdom and benevolence. But this is a charge against the objectors themselves. It is simply to tell us what we so much regret, that they are not joining the movement. Let them also co-operate with their brethren, and give the common cause the weight of their character and the guidance of their counsels, and then their personal objection will be totally annulled. Should they not, it lies with those who have taken this cause in hand to put down such reproaches by their manner of advancing it. Let them remember that the cause of religious truth and freedom is at stake—that the attention of Christendom centres in their discussions. Under these solemn convictions, let them treat a grave question in a grave manner; and let that mind which was in Christ be found also in them, while they demand freedom for his people and supremacy for his crown [great cheering].

Dr King concluded an eloquent speech, of which the above is but a small portion, by proposing:—

That this meeting regards the discussion of the establishment question as very specially called for in England, from the corrupt and oppressive character of its national church; and therefore rejoice that the English dissenters are now bestirring themselves, and adopting active measures to effect the separation of church and state, with which their brethren in Scotland cordially sympathise.

Bailie ANDERSON seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr A. DUNCAN, in a neat and appropriate address, proposed the next resolution:—

That this meeting highly approves of the conference to be held in London on the 30th current, and in evidence of its approval, resolves to send the Rev. Andrew Marshall, D.D., LL.D., of Kirkintilloch, and the Rev. John M'Farlane, LL.D., of Erskine church, as delegates, to represent its views in that assembly, and participate in its proceedings.

In doing so he passed a merited eulogium on Dr Marshall, of Kirkintilloch, and Dr M'Farlane, of Erskine church, whom he proposed as delegates to attend the conference in London, to represent the dissenters of Glasgow.

Mr JAMES PATERSON seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Dr WATSON then moved a vote of thanks to the managers of the church, which was seconded by Mr STRANG, and carried.

Thanks were also voted to the Chairman, when the meeting separated.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Tuesday evening, April 16, says the *Gateshead Observer*, a public meeting was held in the lecture room, Nelson street, Newcastle, for the purpose of electing two representatives to the Anti-state-church Conference. Shortly after half-past 7 o'clock, when the room was three-fourths filled, R. B. Sanderson, Esq., was called to the chair by acclamation, and delivered an excellent address. As a practical illustration of the effects of a state church, he related some of his own experience in connexion with tithes and "the Tithe Commutation act":—

The first I shall allude to is one at Jesmond. The corn tithe is payable to Sir Matthew White Ridley, as lessee; and payable from him—to whom? To the vicar of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, you would suppose. No such thing—but to the dean and chapter of Carlisle. What return do the bishop and dean and chapter make for the money which they receive from this part—and which ought to be appropriated to the religious instruction of this part—to entitle them to keep this corn tithe? Another case:—Brunton modus commuted from £2 to £2 15s. 6d. The next is a small property at Prestwick, near Ponteland, commuted from £13 19s. 7d. to £15 8s. 1½d. This is double the value. In the course of the last year, the tenant of this farm has been missing—(poor man! I don't know what has got him)—[a laugh]—and although I did not receive one sixpence as rent, I have had to pay £15 8s. 1½d. The Archbishop of Canterbury introduced a clause into the Tithe Commutation act, which ordered, in case the tenant paid the tithe, that the landlord should be responsible; and consequently, instead of receiving rent, I had to pay rent for my own farm [hear, hear]. I have got another case—a little moor at Davey Shield. The average of this, for the last seven years preceding the commutation, was £9. Now witness how they have saddled me, under the Commutation act. Tithe paid in 1842, with something more in 1843, £11 19s. 7d.—just a fraction within £12, which is about 25 per cent. above the former rate. I have also been called upon to pay the commissioners, for allotment, £11 9s. 7d. I have been obliged to pay this for their kindness in assessing me in nearly £12—on the paying of which, I could not refrain from giving vent to my feelings, and saying, "I am exceedingly obliged to you, gentlemen, for your gratuitous services" [much laughter]. One would suppose that they would have been satisfied with this. But no! I have a large moor, in common with Lord and Lady Stuart de Decies; and as a dispute might arise relative to the assessing of this, it was deemed advisable to have a plan of it drawn out. And in order to keep things right, their own surveyor was commissioned by me to draw it out—and a precious affair it was! He brought me a plan almost as large as life: it would about take a moor to spread it on, or at all events, a whole wall to itself; and for this I had to pay £12 9s. 6d. I objected to the amount of tithe, and applied to the agent of a gentleman, who attended several times, to reason with the commissioner on this subject; but the only answer he could get was—"It is not more than such a property ought to pay." They would not even condescend to reason. The whole of the tithe expenses of the Davey Shield Farm—the average of which, for the last seven years, was £9—runs thus:—

Tithe paid in 1842 (with something more in 1843).....	£11 19 7
Paid commissioners for allotment	11 9 7
Paid Arkle for plan	12 9 6
Paid agent besides.....	10 0 0

Law expenses £45 18 8
Neither landlord nor tenant ever enter a church; and the present incumbent is a Puseyite of the first water. I have actually paid them 500 per cent. for preaching doctrines that I am totally averse to [hear, hear].
Messrs James Pringle and Kidd proposed and seconded the first resolution, condemning the principle of church establishments. Richard Burdon Sanderson, Esq., jun., and Mr James Pringle, were unanimously appointed to represent the meeting at the ensuing conference; and after addresses from several gentlemen and ministers, including among the latter Messrs John Robertson of Wallsend, Grant, and Ritchie, the meeting separated.

GREENOCK.—At a public meeting, numerously attended, of the friends of voluntary church principles, held in the Relief church, on Thursday evening, for the purpose of appointing representatives to the Anti-state-church Conference, about to be held in London, on the motion of Andrew Clarke, Esq., town councillor, Mr William Auld, minister of the gospel, was called to the chair. The following resolutions were then unanimously adopted:—1st. Moved by Mr Thomas Finlayson, minister of the gospel; seconded by Mr William Thom:—

"That this meeting feel called upon, in present circumstances, to express their unabated attachment to the principle that all civil establishments of religion are unconstitutional, unjust, and injurious; and their unaltered determination to use all peaceable and constitutional means for obtaining a speedy and entire separation between the church and the state."

2nd. Moved by Mr S. Sinclair, minister of the gospel; seconded by Mr Robert Scott, student of divinity:—

"That, earnestly desiring the union of the friends of religious freedom throughout the empire, for the purpose of enlightening the public mind on the evils arising from church and state connexion, this meeting cordially approve of the Conference which is to open in London on the 30th inst."

3rd. Moved by Mr John M'Ilvain, town councillor; seconded by Mr John Hunter:—

"That Josiah Conder, Esq., and Edward Miall, Esq., London, be appointed to represent this meeting in the said Conference; or, should they think proper, that they be empowered to nominate other two gentlemen in their room."

SELECTIONS FROM THE PRESS. (From the Nottingham Review.)

The time for holding the national dissenting convention is rapidly approaching. The Conference will commence its sittings in London, on Tuesday, the 30th instant. The appointment of delegates must be notified to Dr Cox, the provisional secretary, in writing, previously to Wednesday next. There is, therefore, no time to lose. Nottingham has done her duty; Mansfield, Newark, and the large villages in the county must do theirs. The *Nonconformist* represents the accounts of appointments as daily pouring in. The members who have been already elected, as well as the high standing of many representatives already chosen, "hold out the prospect of a very effective and important gathering." The sacred principle, that civil governments have no right to legislate in matters of religion, will be clearly expounded, and we anticipate important results. The unholy, sensual, and debasing alliance of church with state, must be dissolved, and eternal honour will belong to all who assist in the glorious undertaking.

CHURCH RATE SEIZURES AT LEICESTER.—The churchwardens of St Martin's parish, in this town (says the *Leicester Mercury*), have followed up their summonses by seizing the goods of those parishioners who have conscientiously objected to the payment of rates for the support of a state church; distress warrants having been issued by the Mayor and John Mellor, Esq. The former gentleman is a deacon of the baptist church in Charles street, and the latter a member of the independent congregation of Bond street. The following are the accounts of the rates and the goods seized upon:—

Mr John Holmes, Silver street, for a rate of £1 6s. 3d., eight pairs of ladies' shoes, six pairs of gentlemen's shoes, and three pairs of gentlemen's boots. Value seized, £4.

Mr J. F. Winks, High street, for a rate of 14s., four reams of paper, value £1 12s.

Mr John Manning, High street, for a rate of £2 7s. 10d., four prime old cheeses, and four dried hams, valued at £3 8s. 6d.

Mr W. Thirlby, Cheapside, for a rate of £1 12s. 11½d., 67 lbs of cheese and 34 lbs of lump sugar, value £3 14s. 7d.

Mr Joseph Swain, for a rate of 17s. 6d., nine cheeses, about 200 lbs, and worth upwards of £5.

Mr J. Shardlow, for a rate of £1 14s. 11½d., six copper tea kettles, two watering pans, two coal scopes, one water can, and one bucket, value £4.

Mr D. D. Slade, East gates, for a rate of 17s. 6d., two mahogany chairs, one kitchen table, two chairs, and two boxes of cigars, value £4 17s.

Mr W. Baines, High street, for a rate of 16s. 7½d., three copper tea kettles, two copper saucepans, one water bucket with cover, a milk bucket, and two water cans, value £2 4s. 6d.

Messrs W. and G. Baines, Market place, for a rate of £3 7s. 1d., eighteen hats, eight cloth caps, and two squirrel boas, value £6 15s.

Messrs W. and T. Stevenson, Market place, for a rate of £2 16s. 10½d., dresses to the value of £6 7s. 0½d.

SANDIACRE CHURCH RATE SUIT.—We have received a statement of facts relative to this case, from

which we gather the following:—Some time since a church rate was resisted in this parish—1st, on the ground that Mr Butt's election to the office of churchwarden was altogether illegal; secondly, that the rate was retrospective, and, consequently, illegal; and thirdly, that, in order to induce people to vote for the rate, beef and ale had been given by Mr Butt. The case was carried into the ecclesiastical court, and judgment delivered, by Sir Herbert Jenner, in favour of the churchwarden, coupled with a strong censure of his conduct in treating with beef and ale to obtain votes. The defendant's (Mr Fellows) costs amounted to about £300, to defray which an appeal is now made to the friends of religious liberty. Subscriptions will be received by Thomas Wakefield, Esq., or Mr John Rogers, Nottingham; and by Thomas Wright, Esq., Mr George Stevenson, and Mr W. Pike, Derby.

CHURCH RATES AT KNIGHTON.—At the county public office, on Saturday, Mr Fulshaw, churchwarden of Knighton, appeared to support summonses against the following gentlemen, for non-payment of church rates, viz., C. B. Robinson, Esq., Stony-gate, for 17s. 6d., two years' rates; A. Burgess, Esq., 41. 11s. 7d., five years' rates; and J. Cripps, Esq., of the Market place, for 6s. 6½d. None of the defendants appeared to answer the summons, and the rates, with the expenses, were of course ordered to be paid.—*Leicester Mercury*.

MANIFESTO OF THE FREE CHURCH IN REPLY TO THE "CHRISTIAN WITNESS."—The *Free Church Magazine* (April 15), which, though "not the Free Church," we may consider as its official organ, contains a sort of manifesto in reply to the admonitory articles in the *Christian Witness*, which have also appeared in our columns. It consists of eight declarations, in answer to "what appears to be the substance of the recommendations" therein addressed to the Free church. With the last two, relating to the conduct and temper of the Free church towards Scottish Independents, we shall not at present trouble ourselves, being willing to receive the disclaimer of unfairness and intolerance which is now put forth. The fifth, also, may be dismissed as uncalled-for and irrelevant, since no one has called upon the Free church to "inscribe first on their roll of liberators the Scottish independents." The remaining five declarations are to the following effect:—

"1. The Free church will not adopt voluntarism.
"2. The Free church will neither alter nor amend the Confession of Faith; but she will probably issue an explanation of the sense in which she understands the clauses complained of.
"3. With respect to communion, the Free church deems her own plan to be the scriptural one, and will adhere to it.
"4. A method of vesting church property will be transmitted to presbyteries, which will secure to congregations all reasonable control over the property acquired by their own and English money.
"5. The question of female voting shall be considered in every competent way, and will most probably be brought to a unanimous and satisfactory conclusion."

—*Patriot*.

Correspondence.

THE ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE AND PRAYER.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

MY DEAR SIR—Your manly advocacy of the claims of truth—your untiring labours in her service—and your unremitting exertions for the promotion of her sacred interests—demand my warmest sympathy, my highest respect, my most sincere, although feeble, co-operation. The expression of such a sentiment may not add to the satisfaction which cannot but arise to your own mind, from the contemplation of that conscientious stand which you have made, and still so nobly maintain, for great principles; yet the utterance of it tends to give pleasure of the most gratifying description to myself, because it affords me an opportunity of giving vent to feelings which a constant perusal of your excellent paper has generated and cherished—feelings of a character almost amounting to the warm influence of friendship for the man who has so ably, so perseveringly, and, I may add, so successfully, battled for the cause of righteousness and truth against injustice and error.

I have watched the rise and progress of the Anti-state-church Conference agitation with great interest, and I congratulate you on that measure of success which has attended your toilsome, and, at first, almost single-handed, exertions. Will you allow me to make a few observations which the present prospects of the Conference have suggested to my mind? It is now fairly on the region of action and effort, and now is the time to see to it, that everything be attended to that may contribute to the furtherance of its great object. It is this consideration that leads me to intrude a few remarks on the attention of your readers, especially of those who watch with the deepest interest the process of this important agitation.

The great principle to be realised in the moral as well as in the natural world is, that man is the instrument—God is the agent. The difficulty that has been found on the creation of the instrumentality has a natural tendency to enhance the estimate of its value. A feeling of confidence may unwittingly be generated in the mind of those by whose toil and exertion the machinery has been constructed which may, in some measure, lead it off from the consideration that, however excellent the form and construction, yet, after all, it is but machinery, and to render it efficient a competent motive power must be sought. Those individuals, too, who have been most instrumental in increasing the difficulties to be surmounted, are, unhappily, too prone to turn round, and charge those who have, by their energy and self-denying exertions, succeeded in overcoming them, with self-confidence, and an overweening dependence upon their own resources and schemes, when, in fact, all their efforts have been necessarily directed to the one point of creating the means, and they have scarcely been allowed space to give utterance to the real estimate which they

entertain, so great has been their measure of difficulty and opposition. It is, then, I think, right to say one word on the subject, by way of confutation to such unfair opponents, as well as by way of remembrance to ourselves and our friends.

The great object to be attained by the present course of agitation, of which the Conference about to assemble is both a result, and, as we hope, a most important instrument, is the emancipation of religion from the bonds and fetters of the state—to restore the reins of government in the church of God to the church's rightful Lord and Master, even to Jesus Christ; thus to secure the extension of those blessings which are connected with the spread of the Redeemer's cause in the world. Here, then, it is to be observed, that Jesus Christ has committed the management of the affairs of his kingdom to the agency of his Spirit. The great work of the Spirit is to glorify Christ and to establish his kingdom upon the earth. These are the objects primarily sought by the meeting of the forthcoming Conference: the instrumentality is in a measure raised up—the machinery is constructed; let us, then, recognise our dependence upon the Divine influence, which can alone infuse life and power into our movements. Let us honour the Spirit of Jesus, if we would honour the Saviour himself. If we would labour for the cause of Christ, let us labour according to the mind of Christ. By recognising the influence of the Spirit, we shall ensure the vital energy that shall give irresistible power to all our efforts. In our deliberations, our plans, our exertions, let us not forget that the Spirit of Christ is the mind of Christ, and according to the extent of his agency, and to that alone, will be the measure of our success. Sincerity in intention, wisdom in plan, energy in execution, all will fail, unless the Spirit of power accompany the movement. Let but this deep sense of dependence be felt by the members of the forthcoming Conference—let the principle of Divine influence be fully and devoutly recognised by churches—let general, united, believing, fervent invocation be put up to heaven for the bestowment of a rich measure of the same—and we shall find that it is no vain thing to do honour to the Spirit of God. As the essential Spirit of Truth, he will guard us from error, quicken our perceptions, warm our hearts, energise our efforts, and finally give us to see the realisation of our noblest and best wishes. That these results may take place, I am persuaded we must take the course referred to—a course which gives glory to God, reflects dignity on man, and carries with it the certain indication of triumph; for it has God's own stamp of approbation upon it. Excuse, Sir, the protraction of these hasty remarks. That they may serve to convince some that we are not altogether insensible to our own inefficiency, and not entirely in the dark as to the Christian's duty in reference to the undertaking of great and arduous enterprises—viz., that of looking to a higher power and a more perfect wisdom than he himself possesses—has partly induced me to transcribe my thoughts. That such may be the result, I earnestly hope.

I remain, Sir, with sincere respect, yours truly,
Blandford, April 22, 1844. W. G.

THE GIRVAN CASE.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR—I observe in your paper of the 17th inst, which came into my hands to-day, a letter signed "G.," and dated "Southampton, 12th April," containing a commentary on the recent article in your columns on the schism in the Free church at Girvan. Being alone in my present position, I must claim the privilege of a very brief reply to your correspondent, not so much to inform or to convince him, although that may be of use, but to rid myself, and the cause of truth in this place, from the misrepresentation of his letter. You will concede this privilege more readily, I am sure, because your journal is circulated here, and in the present case will no doubt be quoted very much to the disadvantage of an innocent party.

Your correspondent writes in ignorance of the whole facts of the case, and he condemns. Is this honourable or just? Where truth and personal privilege are at stake, is it warrantable? Proceeding on this imperfect acquaintance with his subject, he honours me with supercilious patronage and with retrospective advice, recommending "a discreet silence as by far a wiser course than a valorous attempt to convert the whole church to my own view." Now, valour in me was nothing more than the persuasion of truth; and discreet silence, when truth is in danger, appears to my mind still, as it did then, to be either cowardice or falsehood. I did nothing more in presenting my petition, and that of my friends in this place, to the General Assembly, than simply to request their attention to an ambiguous passage in the "Confession of Faith," by which my own conscience, and that of hundreds, perhaps of thousands, in the Free church, as well as mine, had been seriously staggered. Is the right of petition anomalous in the house of God? Would your correspondent abridge the privilege of an office-bearer or a servant there to narrower limits than are conceded to the slave? So far from desiring to retain, as he insinuates, both my place as a preacher and my position as a petitioner in the communion of the Free church, I had no other design whatever than to maintain truth by ascertaining the recognised interpretation of an apparently persecuting paper. To relinquish my place in ignorance would have been imbecility; to retain it when my petition had been rejected, and when my right to employment had been destroyed by unconstitutional violence, would have been base and sinful; therefore I left the church, not unwillingly, but with satisfaction.

But your correspondent alleges I had no right to be heard, having put myself "out of all court by openly denouncing its authority." He is quite wrong. So far from denouncing authority, I recognised it most solemnly in the very fact of petition; and, so far from being "out of court," the Assembly remitted the whole case for investigation by the presbytery. But this they did with unjust, and, as appears to me, with despotic severity, having first dismissed me from their service without a hearing—without the intervention of a word. An opportunity to be heard in defence was all I desired. It was promised, but never granted.

Suppose your correspondent to be the pastor of a congregational church—I shall put a case in point to illustrate my own. The congregation under his charge is violently disturbed, and the remodeling of its constitution is desirable. The pastor himself begins to doubt; he is not "discreetly silent," but speaks, respectfully however, and by petition. He prays the reconsideration, observe, not of the constitution of the church, but only of some

special doctrine in the creed; he is promised a hearing, and waits patiently in the vestry—but no hearing can be had. He returns home, and finds upon his table a sealed note, intimating the suspension of his labour, salary, and status, *sine die*, and this with no explanation, and with no prospect whatever of any future settlement or reconciliation. What would your correspondent, in such circumstances, say or do?

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,
Girvan, April 19th, 1844. P. H. WADDELL.

MISTAKES AND MIS-STATEMENTS ABOUT MISSIONARIES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—When my letter to the London Missionary Society appeared in your paper last December, I at first rather regretted its publication, and considered that you were mistaken in supposing that I had "requested it," which I think you will see was not exactly so. By a reference to my letter to you, enclosing a copy of mine to that society, in which I said, that "considering a state church which recognises compulsory payment towards its support, was a great upholder of many of the corruptions which had crept into the Christian church, and more especially that great corruption which says, 'it is lawful for a Christian to bear arms and serve in the wars,' I feel called upon to appropriate towards this agitation a portion of a subscription that I have recently withdrawn from another society; a copy of a letter to that society, stating my reasons for its withdrawal, I herewith send; if you think it desirable to insert it in your paper you are at liberty so to do." However I now rejoice in its insertion, as it has been the means of drawing forth a letter, which has just appeared in your paper, from C. Rattray, missionary at Demerara. I think with our friend C. R. that "redress of grievances should be sought before supplies are stopped," and I beg, therefore, to inform him and others, that I could get no answer to my letter on this subject, sent to the Missionary Society, stating my intentions and reasons of it; not hearing from them, I sent a copy of my letter to one of their agents, who I thought was a teetotaler, and who was the person present when the subscription was commenced; and as I got no reply from him, it cannot be correctly said I stopped the supplies before the redress of grievances was sought. I sincerely regret that I should have said, "Missionaries generally sanction the profession of arms, and conform to the drinking usages of society." I should rather have said "agents," but I had a more particular reference to India, having had conversations on those subjects with returned missionaries from there, and to which place the subscriptions referred to had a more particular reference. It now gives me great pleasure to find, from Mr Rattray's letter, that the missionaries at Demerara are making so firm a stand against the drinking custom.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,
Tavistock, April 20, 1844. JOHN PEARSE.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Charitable Pawn Societies' bill, against, 18.
Coals, for repeal of duty on, 2.
County Coroners' bill, for, 1.
Corn laws, against alteration of, 40.
Ecclesiastical courts bill, against, 4.
Factories bill, against, 7.
for, 39.
Jews, for removal of disabilities, 1.
Local Courts, for establishment of, 4.
Marriages (Ireland) for declaring valid, 47.
Masters and Servants bill, against, 54.
Maynooth college, against grant to, 2.
Poor Law Amendment act, against, 1.
Railways, for free competition on, 1.
St Asaph and Bangor dioceses, against union of, 12.
Sugar, for abolition of duties on, 3.
Tea, for reduction of duty on, 5.
Tobacco, for reduction of duty on, 11.
Union with Ireland, for repeal of, 1.
Universal suffrage, for, 2.
Wool, for repeal of duty on, 2.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Detached Parts of Counties bill.
Municipal Corporations (Ireland) bill.
Factories (No. 2) bill.
Ecclesiastical Courts bill.
Superior Courts bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

County Courts bill.
County Coroners' bill.
Supply:—£3,410, Bahama Islands; £4,049, Bermudas; £3,070, Prince Edward's Island; £400, Sable Island, Nova Scotia; £13,680, Western Coast of Africa; £13,500, Civil Establishment of St Helena; £7,219, Western Australia; £3,775, South Australia; £4,224, Port Essington; £9,812, Falkland Islands; £7,565, Colony of New Zealand; £1,023, Civil Establishment, Heligoland; £18,394, Governors and Lieutenant-governors of West India colonies.

DEBATES.

Thursday, April 18th.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

On Thursday Mr MILNER GIBSON moved a resolution tending to the establishment of some method for collecting authentic statistical information on agricultural subjects, namely—

"That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, representing that, in the opinion of this House, it is desirable to obtain authentic information upon all matters connected with the agriculture of the United Kingdom; that this information is altogether deficient, so that at this time even the extent of land under cultivation, and the amount of its produce, are subjects only of vague conjecture; that the total absence of all statistical knowledge, in reference to this important subject, has, at various times, proved detrimental to the public interests; and praying her Majesty to devise measures for supplying to parliament, from time to time, statements of the breadth of land under cultivation for each species of produce respectively, and the amount of produce derived from the same; together with such other information as will exhibit, as far as practicable, a perfect view of the agricultural capability and production of the United Kingdom."

He had no other meaning than that which appeared on the face of the motion. On no subject is statistical information more necessary than on agricul-

ture; and it would be useful, not merely to philosophical writers, but to agriculturists themselves, and to the government. If it was useful to have a census of population, it must be useful to have an account of produce. This would be the way to solve the problem of the proportion between population and food. Not that he placed his advocacy of free trade in corn upon the result of such returns; for if the country grew ten times the food necessary for its people, he should be equally a free trader; but, certainly, when free trade in the food of the people is impeded, a strong obligation is incurred to let the people know the real state of the question respecting that food. At present there is an utter destitution of such agricultural information; the want is regretted by Mr McCulloch, Mr Porter, and the most eminent writers on political economy and agricultural science; and a select committee on agricultural distress, in 1836, suggested that the Board of Trade should be employed to collect it. A witness before that committee said that nothing would tend more to steadiness of price in corn than correct information. Such accounts are supplied by other countries: in America, for instance, a tabular statement of the products of the United States is annually laid before Congress.

Mr BROTHERTON seconded the motion.

Mr GLADSTONE offered it a qualified opposition. He quite concurred with Mr Gibson in the desirableness of his object. The object, however, was novel, and might be viewed with jealousy; and it would be very difficult to carry into effect. Lord Sydenham made a partial attempt to gain information of the kind in Bedfordshire, in 1836; but, of 126 clergymen to whom he wrote, only twenty-seven sent answers. The tithe commissioners make returns of the crops in all parishes, but not simultaneously; and it would be impossible to render the parochial officers available. Perhaps the best plan that had been proposed was to effect it under the machinery of the poor law commissioners. The government had had a communication with the poor law commissioners on the subject; but they had represented that the difficulties were very serious, of a practical nature. Therefore he thought it not expedient to agree to the address; and, if the motion were pressed, he must move "the previous question." He could not altogether say that he saw a reasonable certainty of carrying the measure, although he anxiously hoped some way would be found. The honourable gentleman would, therefore, he trusted, agree to withdraw his motion, especially as, if it were lost on "the previous question," it might be understood out of doors that the government were unfavourable to the measure; to which he heartily wished success, as he thought it a very valuable measure.

Mr CHRISTOPHER would not object to the motion if any practical means were pointed out, but he advised Mr Gibson to withdraw it.

Mr BROTHERTON gave similar advice.

Mr GIBSON consented, on the understanding that government would promise to use their endeavours to obtain information as to the best means of carrying out his plan. The motion was accordingly withdrawn.

Friday, April 19th.

SUPPLY.

On the motion for going into committee of supply,

Mr HUME begged to ask whether it was the intention of the House to vote an addition of £2,000 to the sum annually voted to the officers of the House of Lords. The other House had refused to furnish any return of the manner in which the 20,000*l.* or 30,000*l.* per annum voted by the Commons was expended, and he, for one, should resist any addition to the vote. Lord STANLEY said it was competent to the hon. member to move for any information he required connected with the subject. Lord J. RUSSELL hoped the vote would not be proposed to the House until the information was obtained. The matter then dropped.

In answer to a question from Sir C. WOOD, Sir T. FREMANTLE said, the writ for the borough of Hoveham had not been issued because the writ of summons to the House of Peers had not yet been sent to the late member, now Lord Abinger. Lord J. RUSSELL thought there ought to be some limit, as it was detrimental to the public interests that any place should continue unrepresented.

Mr BELLEW objected to the recent appointment of two stipendiary magistrates in Ireland—Mr Brereton, and Mr Thomas O'Brien; especially to that of Mr O'Brien, who had been a hot repealer, and wrote a violent letter on the subject, but suddenly turned round. Lord ELIOT defended the appointments; vindicated Mr O'Brien's right to change the opinion which he held four years ago, when he was only twenty-four years of age; and denied that a hyperbolic letter should permanently disqualify the writer.

Mr HUME objected to the sum of 379,000*l.* about to be voted in committee for the expenses of colonial governments; alleging want of economy, and alluding to conflict of authority between government and colonising companies. Lord STANLEY defended the economy of the colonial office; and, taking Mr Hume's allusion to apply to the New Zealand company, said it was very probable that the affairs of the company might come before parliament during the present session, and he should then give the fullest information regarding the whole circumstances. Mr AGLIOSBY invited the most searching investigation into the affairs of the New Zealand company.

Mr WILLIAMS complained that this country should be saddled with the expenses of colonial government when the colonies were quite capable of paying them themselves. There were no less than 130 colonial magistrates, 12,000*l.* for the education of negro children of the West Indies, and 11,000*l.* for

the clergy in Canada, all paid out of the taxes of this country.

The House then went into committee of supply.

The first vote that encountered opposition was the sum of £13,500 for the civil establishment of St Helena. Messrs Hume, Williams, and Dr Bowring, insisted on more detailed explanations, which Lord Stanley did not give; the charges being substantially the same as those sanctioned by the preceding government! Mr HUME, however, persisted, and divided the committee on the grant, but was defeated by 68 to 23.

On the vote for a sum of 7,665*l.* for the colony of New Zealand, Mr ROEBUCK said that this was to have been a self-supporting colony, but here he found the universal practice of forwarding the church, and a vote for the pay of a bishop. What did they want with a bishop there? Why not send out some honest, poor parson instead? It was an outrage upon the common sense of this country to go on spreading throughout our large colonial possessions bishops, and paying them out of our revenues. It was shameful so to do. Lord STANLEY would not then discuss the propriety, when large colonies were founded, of furnishing them with religious instruction. But as to the appointment of the Bishop of New Zealand, the present government were not responsible for it. Mr ROEBUCK said the people were not consulted before the bishop was appointed. What had we to do with maintaining a church establishment in all our colonies [hear, hear]? Mr HUME said that when the appointment was first proposed, he objected to its being made a charge upon the British people. The colonies should maintain their own clergy, and when this bishop was appointed such a pledge was given to the country. That pledge ought to be kept in preference to any one that was given to the bishop. He supposed that next we should hear of a bishop of the Falkland islands ["hear," and laughter]. Let the bishops go, but do not let the British people pay for them. In order to mark his disapprobation of sending a bishop to one of our colonies to be paid by the people of this country, he moved that the salary of the bishop of New Zealand be reduced by 600*l.* For the original motion, 80; for the amendment, 19: majority, 61.

Upon the next vote, £1,023, to defray the expenses of the civil establishments at Heligoland being proposed, Mr W. WILLIAMS said he found a charge in this vote also for two clergymen. He wished some explanation to be given. Lord STANLEY said this was a charge which had been made every year ever since the island had come into the possession of Great Britain. These were not clergymen of the church of England, but of the Danish church, and surely the honourable member would not wish to deprive them of the miserable pittance they received, and to which the government were in a manner pledged. The vote was eventually passed. Some other votes were agreed to and the House resumed.

Monday, April 22nd.

THE FACTORIES BILL.

Some conversation arose as to the most convenient course to be adopted in taking the discussion on the bill, Sir James Graham suggesting that the second reading should pass unopposed, and the debate be reserved till going into committee.

Mr THOMAS DUNCOMBE remarked that it was no use deceiving themselves; the working classes did not anticipate a reduction of wages from the limitation of their hours of labour; and, therefore, it was highly expedient that the evidence should be gone into before a select committee. He strongly censured Lord Ashley, whose course in deferring discussion till the third reading he considered tantamount to an abandonment of the question. He would himself move, on the order of the day for going into committee of the whole House, that the bill should be referred to a select committee above stairs.

Lord ASHLEY retorted that the operatives were as good judges of the matter as Mr T. Duncombe, and would exercise their judgment with ten times more justice and candour. He read an extract from a letter which had been addressed to him by the short-time committee of Lancashire, in which they declared that all of them approved of the course which he intended to adopt with respect to the bill.

After some discussion, the Speaker intimated that on Friday next, when the bill is to go into committee, Mr T. Duncombe's motion will be taken first, and will be put in the form of a proposition, that the order for going into committee of the whole House be discharged, in order that the question be put of referring the bill to a select committee, with the view of receiving evidence as to what will be the effect on wages of the limitation to ten hours. When that has been disposed of it will be competent for Mr Roebuck, or any other member, to propose any motion relevant to the subject.

Though it was tacitly agreed to that all discussion should be deferred till Friday, the temptation, in a full house, of having a short debate on the second reading could not be resisted; and ultimately a very lively personal affair arose.

Mr FERRAND having affirmed that the working classes were universally in favour of the ten hours,

Mr ROEBUCK rose, and said he had an important question to put to Mr Ferrand. He was reported to have alleged that a minister of the crown had used the influence of his office to induce a servant of the government, an assistant poor law commissioner, to make a false report to the House, for the express purpose of crushing a member of it. He asked on what authority this grave charge was made?

Mr FERRAND complained of want of courtesy, in not being informed that this question was to be put.

The charge which he had made was founded on his old grievance of Mr Mott, the Keighley union, and the conduct of Sir James Graham, who had got a false report from Mr Mott, and drew it out of his box on the table for the purpose of "crushing me in this House."

Mr ROEBUCK reminded Mr Ferrand that he had not explained the charge that a minister of the crown had used the powers of his office to induce a false report to be made.

Mr FERRAND would not be schooled by Mr Roebuck. He had behaved himself in a way unworthy of a member of the House and a gentleman.

Here there were loud calls of "order" and "chair," and the House became rather excited.

The SPEAKER called on Mr Ferrand to retract this remark.

Mr FERRAND would do so. But he admitted that he had said and believed that Sir James Graham had abused the powers of his office in inducing a false report to be made to the House in relation to the Nottingham election.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM said that the proper course would have been to move that the words be taken down. But Mr Ferrand must himself feel that the matter could not rest where it did, and that he must take the proper steps to bring the matter to an investigation.

Mr WARD, Mr HUME, and others, pointed out such an allegation against a member of the House, acting as its sworn servant, in the capacity of the chairman of an election committee, was one too serious to be passed over.

Mr HOGG, who acted as the chairman of the Nottingham election committee which unseated Mr Walter, indignantly demanded a full investigation of the charge that he, a sworn servant of the House, had suffered a member of the government to influence him in discharging a sacred and solemn duty. When the accusation was originally made in the *Times*, he had been advised by members on both sides of the House to take no notice of it. But now it was imperative that the charge should be substantiated or disproved, and either he or his calumniator covered with deserved obloquy.

Mr FERRAND complained of being taken by surprise, without time to collect his proofs. They were "higgling and haggling" over his expressions; but he admitted that he believed all that the *Times* had advanced on the subject of the Nottingham election. Attempts were made in the House to crush him, by those who dared not to meet him on the hustings.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM said there should be no "higgling and haggling" in that House. Let Mr Ferrand take till next day to collect his proofs, and come down prepared to make his charge. He hoped that the House would compel his accuser to do so.

Mr HOGG would also then meet any charge which might be made.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that the question was not one merely as to the use or meaning of certain expressions. A charge had been made, affecting the characters of Sir James Graham and Mr Hogg, and Mr Ferrand must either prove something which could justify his allegation, or submit to the imputation of being a calumniator.

Sir R. PEEL adverted to certain words which Mr Oastler, in a speech, had imputed to him. He was reported by that individual to have said, in conversation, that on the ten hours the Christian feeling of the House had beaten the government. He could recollect nothing he had said which could possibly be construed into an approach to this expression, unless indeed, it were, that if members took time to consider what they were about, the government would be in a majority.

Here the matter dropped: the Factories bill was read a second time; and the House, which had been very full during the whole of the scene, was immediately pretty well emptied, the hour of dinner having arrived.

ECCLIASTICAL COURTS BILL.

The next order of the day was the second reading of the Ecclesiastical Courts bill, which had come down from the House of Lords.

Dr NICHOLL stated its purport. Following the example of the Lord Chancellor, in the upper house, he gave a sketch of the previous attempts at legislation on this ponderous subject, and pointed out the agreement and the difference in the present bill with previous ones. The grand difference, as our readers are aware, is the non-interference, by the present bill, with the diocesan courts; and he justified this omission on the ground that the bill attempted all that could be successfully carried out at present.

Sir GEORGE GREY expressed his astonishment that Dr Nicholl, who, last year, had so ably pleaded for the abolition of the diocesan courts, should now propose this inadequate reform, and perpetuate thirty-five ecclesiastical courts, condemned by the ecclesiastical commission and by public opinion. The bill would actually perpetuate these nuisances, instead of preparing the way for their abrogation at a future period. The right honourable baronet went into considerable detail, in order to show that the retention of these diocesan courts not only caused an essential difference in the principle of the present bill from that of last year, but that the evils involved in the continuance of their jurisdiction would more than counterbalance any good which the present measure confessedly contained. Why did not ministers honestly confess the truth, that there were interests out of doors to which they had succumbed? For himself, if the bill were to pass, he would give up all hope of ever seeing any further ecclesiastical reform; and on that ground he felt himself justified in moving, as an amendment, that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

Sir R. H. INGLIS had not been convinced by the

ability and eloquence of Sir George Grey, that it was expedient to abolish the diocesan courts.

Lord R. GROSVENOR, having taken an active part in the opposition to the measure last year, felt bound to explain why he opposed the present one. His main objection was, that it re-constructed courts admitted to be a nuisance; and he had various objections to it on matters of detail.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM acknowledged that he preferred the bill of last session to the present one; and did contemplate "ulterior changes," as a consequence of the present measure. But experience showed them that the bill contained as much of salutary change as could with safety be carried at present.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL said that the bill was opposed to the recorded opinions of all the highest authorities on such a subject—of Lords Tenterden, Lyndhurst, Campbell—of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of London—of Dr Lushington and Sir John Nicholl; while all that could be urged in favour of the retention of the diocesan courts were the opinions of certain anonymous persons. Unless the bill were materially altered in committee, he should resist it, as it contained little to compensate the evils it perpetuated.

Colonel SIBTHORP thought that it ill became Lord John Russell to assail that church whose child, in fact, he was, for he was bred, fed, and educated upon its spoils.

Dr ELPHINSTONE and Mr WATSON supported the amendment.

On a division there appeared—

For the amendment.....	89
Against it	158
Majority.....	—69

On the question that the bill be read a second time,

Mr T. DUNCOMBE made some amusing comments on the bill, declaring his conviction that we wanted no ecclesiastical courts, and no canon laws. Sir R. PEEL last year exclaimed, that the then bill was, "so help him God," an honest measure; and he (Mr T. Duncombe) declared "so help him God," that the present bill was a gross job.

Sir ROBERT PEEL had used these words in perfect truth; and would, even now, press the bill of last year, if there were any chance of carrying it. But they had received no very cordial assistance from the opposition, and were now reduced to the necessity of contenting themselves with a less adequate measure of reform, if they did not wish to abandon it altogether. A combination of vested interests was the chief impediment to the passing of that bill; and though an executive could perform no greater service to the country than the undertaking of reforms, he who proposed to effect reforms in the law must lay his account with proceeding very gradually. He deprecated these *tu quoque* recriminations; and Lord John Russell, knowing the difficulties which beset an executive government, and recollecting the course which he had adopted on various questions, should be more sparing of charges of humiliating positions, and so forth. He would allow to every man the privilege of changing his opinion, if he manfully avowed the ground of his convictions.

Mr CHARLES BULLER remarked that Sir Robert Peel had lost sight of the honesty of the bill in vindicating the honesty of his intentions. Shrinking from the opposition which they encountered last year, they brought in the present miserable bill, which created twenty-nine new judgeships, but grappled with none of the real evils of the system.

Dr NICHOLL made a few observations in reply, and the bill was then read a second time.

MISCELLANEOUS.

No House was made on Wednesday; 38 members only being present.

FACTORY BILL.—On Thursday, Lord ASHLEY stated the course which he intended to pursue with respect to the Factory Bill—

It was my original intention to have moved certain instructions to the committee; but [addressing the speaker] your opinion has turned me from that course, inasmuch as I learn from you that moving instructions to the committee will not be strictly consistent with parliamentary law; and you also inform me that I should not be able to move the insertion of any clauses until all the clauses of the bill are disposed of in committee. I therefore thought it better to take another course; as it is probable that no opposition will be given to the bill as it now stands on its second reading on the 22nd, and probably none during its progress through committee—and as it is likely to go through committee in one night, and be read a third time on the 3rd May—I am determined to move, on the third reading of the bill, the addition of certain clauses, for the purpose of carrying out the amendments which I proposed in the former bill. Her Majesty's government having acquiesced in this arrangement, I give notice, that on the third reading of the Factories Regulation bill, I shall move the addition of clauses to limit the hours of labour, on and after the 1st October of the present year, for all young persons to eleven hours in each day, or sixty-four in the week, until the 1st October 1847; and after that period to impose a further limit to ten in each day, or fifty eight in the week?

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—The Budget is to be introduced on the 29th instant, and the government measure on banking on the 30th. Sir James Graham said, on Thursday, that if the House acceded to the proposition with regard to the Factories Regulation bill, and read the bill a second time on the 26th, and a third time on the 3rd of May, he thought that he should be able to bring on the Poor-law bill on the 6th May. In committee on the Factories bill Mr Roebuck is to move an instruction to strike out any provision for restricting the labour of persons above eighteen years of age. Sir James Graham fixed the second reading of the Irish Registration

bill for the 29th instant; the budget to take precedence.

MASTERS AND SERVANTS BILL.—This oppressive measure encounters much opposition from the working classes. On Friday Mr Ferrand presented a petition against it agreed to at a public meeting of 20,000 of the inhabitants of Bradford, in the county of York; also petitions to the same effect from Leeds, from the mechanics and operatives of Bradford, and from 230 workmen employed in the Queen's Head factory. Sir G. Strickland presented a similar petition from the boot and shoemakers of Preston. Mr T. Duncombe presented thirty-six petitions to the same effect from Manchester, Bolton, Glasgow, Birmingham, Norwich, Halifax, Warrington, Rochdale, and other places.

PUBLIC EXECUTION.—On Friday Mr Bright called the attention of the home secretary to the case of a female who had attempted to drown herself and her child, who had been convicted of murder, the judge holding out no hope of mercy to her. He hoped that an execution so repugnant to public feeling would not be allowed to take place. Sir J. Graham said, his duty was to administer the law, not to enter into a discussion of facts. He thought any observations at present would be an interference with the prerogative of the crown.

SPANISH AFFAIRS.—On Monday Sir Robert Peel, in answer to Mr Borthwick, said that the general instructions to our naval officers off the coast of Spain were, to extend protection to the lives and property of British subjects, but not to interfere in the domestic quarrels of that distracted country. The consul at Alicante had reported that many Spanish refugees had been refused to be taken on board the Scout vessel of war, but without mentioning names; and in the report from Captain Drummond, there was no mention of the specific application of the unhappy Bonet, as specially reported in the newspapers. He took the opportunity of expressing his strong disgust at the sanguinary warfare waged between the contending factions in Spain, and the wholesale massacres which took place.

THE IRISH REGISTRATION BILL is to come no for discussion on the 6th of May.

CHURCH RATES.—The following petition has been presented to the House and printed with the votes and proceedings:—

"We, your humble petitioners, beg leave to make known to your honourable House a case of extreme hardship and oppression, which has occurred this day, April 15th, in Warwick."

"We have appeared to answer to a summons for the non-payment of a church rate, made on behalf of Saint Mary's church, Warwick, in the parish of Saint Mary, on January 18th, 1844."

"The magistrates, Philip W. Newsum, Esq., mayor, George Cattell Greenway, Esq., and John Wilmshurst, Esq."

"The case of Charles Price being called on, George Cattell Greenway made use of this expression, 'We will not sit here to be made fools of: we come now to make them pay, and pay they shall.' That the said Charles Price then proceeded to make certain objections on the ground that a former rate, which had been disputed, remained uncollected; that the amount now demanded was exorbitant and unequalled for to meet necessary expenses of the current year; but the magistrates replied, 'We will hear no objections, we will issue a distress and compel you to pay.' The same line of conduct was pursued by the magistrates towards your petitioner, William White Thompson."

"Gentlemen of the honourable House of Commons, we, your humble petitioners, beg to ask your honourable House, whether you will allow free citizens, in a free country, to be thus trampled on by an unjust and inefficient magistracy; that your honourable House will be pleased to institute an inquiry into the above case."

"And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray."

"CHARLES PRICE."

"WILLIAM WHITE THOMPSON."

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, April 18th.

FRAUDULENT CREDITORS.—Lord Campbell brought in a bill to enable actions to be brought against British subjects residing abroad, the cause of action having arisen in this country. With respect to the law of debtor and creditor great improvements had taken place. Still there was very great facility given to fraudulent debtors to reside abroad, and to cheat their creditors.

If the debtor had property in land, or in the funds, to the amount of £100,000, he had only to cross the channel, and that property could not be reached by the law for the benefit of his creditors. They might proceed to outlawry against him, in which case his property was forfeited to the crown. His creditors had no immediate remedy—no direct advantage from that proceeding. What he proposed by this bill was, to provide a remedy for the creditor in this way—namely, that, with the concurrence of the court, on the application of the creditor, process might be served on the debtor abroad, and then, after it was satisfactorily proved that he permanently resided abroad, and that process had been duly served, the action might be brought as if he were within the regular jurisdiction of the court. By a return made by the French authorities of the number of British subjects domiciled in France, in January, 1841, it appeared that the total amount was 66,000. This was exclusive of many thousands who were traveling. And it was calculated that the sum annually expended by those residents in France was not less than £5,000,000 [hear, hear]. The bill was read a first time, and ordered to be printed.

Friday, April 19th.

The Bishop of EXETER, in presenting several petitions against the Dissenters' Chapels bill, took the opportunity of indulging a little priestly arrogance:—

The petitioners were described as members of the presbyterian church of Ireland. Now, there was no presbyterian church in England or Ireland; and he thought that, in using the phrase, the petitioners were altogether irregular. If the petition had come from Scotland, the case would have been different, and he would not have found fault with the expression; but in England and Ireland no church was recognised except the church of England; and there was an express canon of the church against any persons calling themselves in England and Ireland members of any church not the church of England.

Lord CAMPBELL wished to know the date of the canon

alluded to by the right rev. prelate, and whether it had been confirmed by parliament?

The Bishop of Exeter was quite ready to answer the question of the noble and learned lord. The canon was established in England in the year 1603, and in Ireland about 30 years later. With respect to the effect of that canon in a court of justice, it would be a grave question for a court of justice to decide, when brought before it. He was not situated as a judge in a court of justice, and therefore he was not called on to enter into the question; but he would say that the canons of the church were equally binding in conscience on the minds of the laity as on those of the clergy. There was no church recognised in England and Ireland but the church of England, and parties denominating themselves members of any other were liable to grave censure. As to any penal effect of the canon, he was not called on to argue the subject. If the question came regularly and judicially before the House it would, no doubt, be properly decided; but, till then, he conceived that it would be wise to abstain from giving any opinion on it.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, who will take her departure for the Continent, accompanied by their Majesties the King and Queen of the Belgians, on Thursday next, will be absent from England for a period of about three months.—*Morning Herald*. Yesterday her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, accompanied by her son, his Serene Highness the Prince of Leiningen, left Clarence house, to embark at Dover for the continent.

The late Lord Abinger died on the 7th of this month, and on the 22nd the Secretary to the Treasury has not yet moved the writ for the borough of Horsham, in the room of the present Lord Abinger.

Sir Robert Peel, on Wednesday, unsolicited, sent ten guineas, through Mr Masterman, as his subscription to the national testimonial to Mr Rowland Hill.—*Chronicle*.

THE SUGAR DUTIES.—We were yesterday favoured with the following extract from a London broker, to a gentleman of Liverpool, dated London, 17th April:—"I suppose you have heard that Lord Sandon told Mr M'Fee, of Glasgow, that an alteration in sugar and tea was decided upon, but he did not know the extent." We know not what foundation there may be for this, but there is a very general belief among commercial men here that something of the kind is intended.—*Liverpool Mercury of Friday*.

THE POOR-LAW COMMISSIONERS have appointed Colonel Thomas Francis Wade to be an assistant commissioner.

OCCUPATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.—That portion of the abstract of the census of 1841, which relates to the occupations of the people, has only been completed as far as twenty-seven counties, but it affords a most remarkable answer to a very favourite assertion of the pro-corn-law advocates, both in and out of parliament, to wit, that by far the greater proportion of the population consists of farmers, labourers, and persons employed in agriculture. If this were so, the condition of the great bulk of the agricultural labourers is not such as to show that the corn-laws have been of any service whatever to them, but the fact is otherwise. The twenty-seven counties in question are:—Bedford, Berks, Bucks, Cambridge, Chester, Cornwall, Cumberland, Devon, Dorset, Derby, Durham, Essex, Gloucester, Hereford, Hertford, Huntingdon, Kent, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlesex, Monmouth, Norfolk, Northampton, Northumberland, Nottingham, Oxford, and Rutlandshire, comprising a population of 8,048,324, and the numbers employed in different occupations are:—

Farmers, graziers, yeomen	116,925
Agricultural labourers	523,294
	640,222
Persons employed in trade and other occupations	2,286,858
Persons returned as of independent means ..	249,635
Residue of population, consisting of alms-people, pensioners, paupers, beggars, other persons (of course including females not in trade, and children)	4,871,609

Total population..... 8,048,324
The decimal proportions of the different classes may therefore be thus stated:—

Farmers and agricultural labourers	8	per cent.
Persons employed in trade and other occupations	28.50	"
Persons of independent means	3.14	"
Residue of population	60.36	"

100 per cent.
And this, be it observed, is almost entirely in the agricultural counties! The seventeen counties yet to be heard from, comprise the great manufacturing and trading districts, and are as follow:—Lancaster, Salop, Somerset, Hants, Stafford, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Warwick, Westmoreland, Wilts, Worcester, and York.

INSPECTORS OF SCHOOLS.—Friday night's *Gazette* announces that the Queen has appointed Mr H. Walford Bellairs, Mr Frederick Watkins, and Mr Joseph Fletcher, to be inspectors of schools.

THE BALANCE-SHEET of the national income and expenditure for the year ended April 5th, 1844, just published, shows a surplus of revenue over expenditure of £2,095,427.

Postscript.

Wednesday, April 24th.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MR FERRAND'S CALUMNIES.—Mr Ferrand has at length got his quietus. Last night the house was much crowded with the expectation of a scene; as the honourable member for Knaresborough had engaged to substantiate his charges against Sir James Graham and Mr Hogg. Mr Ferrand, however, after

raising great expectation by commencing in a loud, sonorous, determined tone of voice, as if he were prepared for a long speech, raised long-continued shouts of laughter by the sudden abruptness of his conclusion, and his precipitate retirement from the house. It was long before the laughter and the derisive cheering subsided, breaking out from time to time on both sides, and defying all calls to order. Mr Ferrand's speech was so ludicrously pithy and short, that we give it entire:—

Mr FERRAND said:—I have, during this morning, minutely examined into all the speeches which I made in the manufacturing districts during the Easter recess, and which have been published in the *Times* newspaper. I have paid particular attention to the leading articles of the *Times*, in which are certain extracts from speeches of mine, which were said to bear on the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and the learned member for Beverley. It is not my intention to retract one syllable which I used in those speeches, nor to extenuate or explain away a single sentence. When I made use of the language, I asserted the sacred prerogative of a free-born Englishman, and I expressed my opinion upon the public conduct of two public officers. Sir, I defy this House to deprive me of that privilege. The opinion which I formed of the conduct of these two public officers is supported by the public press of the country, and is backed by public opinion. But if, in making use of those expressions, I have in any way wounded the personal honour of any member of this House [here the honourable member was interrupted by loud ironical cheers]—Sir, the party spirit and unmanly bearing which was exhibited towards me last night, and which has burst forth at this instant, should remind those honourable gentlemen—and I am sure I shall be backed with the feeling of Englishmen at large—that this house is the last tribunal for them to appeal to. [Here the honourable gentleman paused, took up his hat, walked deliberately from his seat, and, bowing to the Speaker, left the house. Sir James Graham, who had not observed the movement, rose to reply to the honourable gentleman; but as he was laying his hat on the table, a loud burst of uproarious mirth broke from all parts of the House, and on the right honourable baronet turning round and ascertaining the cause, he heartily joined in the laughter and resumed his seat. The laughter and confusion continued for some time, and it was again and again renewed, as Mr Borthwick (who had a notice of motion standing on the paper) attempted to address the House.]

Mr Ferrand having decamped, a discussion arose, as to what was to be done in the matter. Mr Hogg thought they ought to investigate the charges of Mr Ferrand, and either to visit him with merited punishment, or to pass a resolution declaring the accusation false and calumnious. Sir James Graham thought the whole thing so ridiculous that he cared not what course was pursued. Sir Robert Peel suggested that if the House intended to treat the matter seriously, they should adjourn the debate, in order to afford time to look into precedents; for they might incautiously establish one which might hereafter be abused by the power of a majority. For himself, he thought the whole affair had no parallel since the day when the conjuror advertised that he would compress himself into a quart bottle, and at the appointed time suddenly disappeared. Lord John Russell thought the matter should not be allowed to rest. Lord Stanley wished time should be taken for reflection. The Speaker, who was appealed to, advised all discussion to be dropped, that the accusation should be read, and Mr Ferrand's admission of it, at the table of the house, and then they might proceed according to pleasure. After some remarks from Mr Blackstone and other members, the debate was adjourned.

Mr BORTHWICK then moved an address to her Majesty, praying that measures might be taken to restore the convocation to the church, but while he was speaking the House was counted out.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—The Lord Chancellor said, as a matter of personal convenience to himself, he had obtained the consent of the right reverend prelate (the Bishop of Exeter) to take the discussion on this bill on the motion for going into committee. He should move it be read a second time on Friday, and on Friday week that they should go into committee.

FRANCE.—The *Times* correspondent says that much alarm is created at Paris by the existence of secret societies and a spirit of disaffection in the army, now made manifest by the arrest of numerous sub-officers and soldiers of at least three regiments. One of these regiments was lately in garrison at Paris; the other two, a regiment of artillery and a regiment of the line, were in the south of France. Another topic is the immense additions France is making to her naval power. Some six or eight frigates have been, or are about to be, launched, armed, and fitted for sea in the dockyards of Brest and Rochefort. Two frigates are also being built for the French government in Holland.

SICILY.—Accounts from Marseilles, dated the 18th inst, state as positive that an insurrectionary movement had taken place in Sicily, and that disorders had occurred at Reggio (Calabria).

THE STATE TRIALS.—THE CROWN AFFIDAVITS.—The affidavits of the clerks of the peace, Messrs Archer and Dickenson, and their deputy, Mr Magrath (in consequence of the non-production of which the attorney-general applied, on Saturday, for the postponement of the new trial motion fixed for Monday), were lodged on Monday afternoon. The *Times* explains the cause of this delay in proceeding with the trials:—"In consequence, however, of an erroneous apprehension that Mr Magrath's affidavit would not be ready on that occasion, the attorney-general was forced to acquiesce in a discharge of the rule, and thus to give an involuntary assent to a further postponement in a proceeding which was

marked by many and unnecessary delays from its first commencement." It further says that the trials will be proceeded with, and the attorney-general is expected to argue against the motion of the traversers' counsel this day.

THE IRISH REGISTRATION BILL.—All parties here concur in thinking that the doom of the Irish Franchise bill, with its unhappy Chandos clause, is sealed for this year at least. According to the bill, the act was to come into operation on the 16th of July next, and, as it would be evidently impossible that it could pass through all its stages in both houses of parliament twenty-eight days prior to that period, it may be said to have been virtually abandoned.—*Times Dublin Correspondent*.

Ten thousand out-pensioners of Chelsea college, whose ages are not to exceed 58 years, are to be mustered on the 25th of the present month, for the purpose of enrolment, and being hereafter called out as a local force in their respective districts, when required for the preservation of the public peace.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.

The enthusiasm manifesting itself in the election of delegates to the Anti-state-church Conference astounds us. The names received up to this morning amount to considerably upwards of five hundred. More than fifty congregations have applied to the Secretary for the names of gentlemen in town to represent them, to whom it has been impossible to furnish an answer, from inability to fix, on the instant, upon suitable individuals—these parties, however, will be provided for before the Conference. Should any delegates, on account of absence from home, or other cause, fail of receiving their tickets from the Secretary, they will be furnished with them upon application to the Executive Committee, Crown and Anchor, on Tuesday. The following are the appointments which reached us this morning:—

LONDON (Finsbury chapel).—Fletcher, Mr, pastor; Temple, Mr W.
BAPTIST UNION (meeting of representatives).—Cox, Dr; Stovel, Mr.
BIRMINGHAM.—Roe, Mr C., pastor. Baptist.
SOUTHAMPTON.—Downman, Mr G.; Davis, Mr J. H. Public meeting.
MODBURY.—Bassett, J., pastor; Woollacott, Mr. Baptist.
INGHAM.—Brown, J., Esq., 236, Regent street.
MORRISTON, GLAMORGAN-SHIRE.—Morris, Mr J., Coward college, London.
CASTLE DONNINGTON.—Owen, Mr J.
HANLEY (Tabernacle).—Fletcher, J., pastor; Piddock, Mr J.
THRAPSTONE.—Young, Mr B. C., pastor.
CHELMSFORD (Badlow lane).—Gray, Mr J., pastor.
BUGBOOKE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.—Larwill, Mr J., pastor.
GALASHIELS.—Dr Cox and Mr Rick.
HIGHGATE.—Orehead, G. H., pastor; Lowell, G. F.R.S.
HALIFAX (Square chapel).—Ewing, Alexander, M.A., pastor.
ST IVES, HUNTS.—Holland, J. R., pastor.
CHELMSFORD.—Copland, J.; Hughes, E.
COGGESHALL.—Kay, Mr; Unwin, S., Esq.
CAMBRIDGE.—Cooper, Joseph, Laurence Pountney lane, London. 100 signatures.
ADDLESTONE.—Worley, Mr W. C.
TOTTENHAM.—Davis, Mr J., pastor; Baylis, J., Esq. Baptist.
DEANSHANGER.—Killingworth, Mr, pastor.
CALVERTON.—Edward, Mr J. pastor; Frearson, Mr, of Nottingham.
WITHERIDGE.—Jay, Mr; Mudie, Mr, 28, Upper King street.
COXLEY.—Davis, Mr J. C., pastor.
MUCKWORTHY.—Dr Cox; Davis, Mr S. J. 100 signatures.
BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.—Bowring, Dr, M.P.; Fyfe, Mr, baptist minister.
WIGAN.—Price, Dr T.
BRANLEY.—Cliff, John, Esq.
NOTTINGHAM (Park street).—Bain, Mr W.; White, Mr, of London.
HOXTON.—Rothery, Mr J., pastor; Hewett, Mr J.
NEW BASFORD.—Doggett, Mr F.; Hall, Mr J. T.
SUNDERLAND (Wesleyan association).—Eckett, Mr R.; Cuthbertson, Mr T.
LYMINGTON.—Wills, Mr F.
LEWES.—Davis, Mr E., pastor; Stovel, Mr C., of London. 100 signatures.
EVESHAM.—Hockin, Mr J., pastor.
LUTTERWORTH.—Hopwood, Mr J., pastor.
SWANSEA.—Davis, Mr D., pastor; Jenkin, Dr, and Edwards, D., of London. Public meeting.
IPSWICH (Turret Green chapel).—Childs, Mr, of Bungay; Woodward, Mr B.
CHELMDISTON, SUFFOLK.—Webb, Mr J., baptist minister, of Ipswich.
BURNLEY (baptist).—Evans, Mr R., student of Accrington college.
BLACKBURN.—Frazer, Mr A., pastor; Eccles, T., Esq.
ASPATRIA, Cumberland.—Reeve, Jonah, pastor.
HEBURN BRIDGE.—Smith, Mr T., pastor. Baptist mission house, London.
LEIGHTON (Lake Street chapel).—Adey, Mr E.; Simmons, Mr W. R.
CARNARVON (Pendref chapel).—Austin, Mr J., of Leicester.
GREENOCK.—Miall, Mr E., and Conder, Mr J., of London. Public meeting.

WORCESTER.—ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.—Four delegates have been appointed to represent various bodies in this city at the forthcoming Conference. Mr W. Crowe has been chosen by the Baptist Association for the county, together with Mr J. Overbury, of Pershore, and the baptists of this city are consequently represented by him. The congregation of Wesleyan Association methodists are also represented by a gentleman. The principal dissenting minister of the place holds aloof from the movement, but notwithstanding his avowed disapproval, many of the principal members of his congregation are in favour of it, and, together with the principal members of the Society of Friends and the Wesleyans, are well represented by Robert Hardy, Esq., the candidate in the radical interest at the last election for this city; and by the eloquent denouncer of slavery, George Thompson, Esq. Thus, though the "respectables" frown upon the movement, it "goes on and prospers" in spite of them.—*Correspondent*.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English ..	1900	480				
Scotch....						
Irish		550	5450			
Foreign ..	1100	2060				

Very little doing, no alteration in prices.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- "An Independent." And who may he be that, under cover of an anonymous signature, calls upon us to abandon a course consistently pursued by us for three years, and not without success, as his own letter indicates? Are any delegates to the Conference being appointed by his congregation, that he favours us with such an effusion of mingled bitterness and cant? Why did he not give his name and address like a man? We might then have treated him with respect, although, probably, we should have smiled at his self-complacency.
- "J. P." Wellington, Salop. By the last stamp returns 2390 weekly.
- "T. B." Too late for insertion this week.
- "J. P." Nonsense.
- "C. J. B." We think with him in the main, but not as to the propriety of time and place.
- "W. B." will see the best answer among the advertisements.
- "G. T." We met the same objection by an elaborate article, three months ago.
- "I Spy All," No. 2. We hope most earnestly that he will not go on to No. 3.
- "Simplex." The state has a right to protect society against all nuisances, as in the case supposed.
- "A Voluntary." We have given a letter from Mr Waddell, which will, perhaps, answer the purpose.
- "W. B. J." John Millar, 85, Ingram street, Glasgow. Received, for the Anti-state-church Conference, from "A Friend of Civil and Religious Liberty," through the hands of Robert Maclellan, unitarian minister, Bridport, £5.
- "A Young Republican" will find an answer to his question in any manual of geography.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
For 7 lines....5s. 0d. | For 10 lines....6s. 0d.
For every additional line..... 4d.
For a half column £1 5s. | For a column...£2 0s.

* Advertisements from the country must be accompanied by a post-office order, or reference for payment in London.

Orders for the *Nonconformist* are received at the office, and by all booksellers and news-vendors. The terms of subscription, if paid in advance, are £1 6s. per annum. All communications for the Editor should be addressed to the office, No. 4, Crane court, Fleet street.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1844.

We beg to announce to our readers that an Extra Number of the *Nonconformist* will be published on MONDAY MORNING NEXT, containing reports of the various Religious Meetings held during the week. A second extra number will be published on Monday Morning, May 6, containing a full report of the proceedings of the Anti-state-church Conference.

SUMMARY.

THE House of Commons, since its re-assembling after the Easter holidays, has niggled away its time in trifles. It seems more loath than ever to touch any important business. On Wednesday there was no house. On Thursday, nothing more was done than the delivery of two speeches on the importance of obtaining more correct statistical knowledge on agricultural matters—one by Mr Milner Gibson, in moving an address to the crown, with a view to this—the other by Mr Gladstone, in requesting the withdrawal of the motion. The speakers concurred in the extreme importance of the end sought, but the president of the Board of Trade gave a much better description of his wishes than of his powers. He earnestly wished he could—indeed he had attempted, but success had not been equal to his expectations—he was still turning the matter over in his mind—he might yet be able to obviate all difficulties—he trusted, therefore, that the House would consent to leave the matter in his hands; whereupon the pass was closed, and the House adjourned.

Friday evening was chiefly devoted to matters of supply. Mr Hume and Mr Williams laboured, as usual, to reduce the estimates, and, as usual, laboured to no other purpose than that of exposing the gross jobbery of many of the demands. On Monday evening the Factories bill came on for second reading. Upon the merits of the measure no discussion whatever was taken; the House, at the instance of the honourable member for Bath, preferring to discuss the merits of Mr Busfield Ferland. That gentleman, as is well known, has been starring in it company with Mr Oastler through the manufacturing districts, during the late recess; and, in his platform harangues, has not been so mindful of truth as became a personage of his exalted virtues. He uttered, it seems, some grave charges against Sir James Graham and Mr Hogg, the chairman of the Nottingham election committee; imputing to them both a gross and wilful dereliction of duty, for the sake of crushing him. For this offence he was called to account; and, having pleaded his being taken by surprise, he was bidden to come down to the house on the morrow furnished with proofs, and there and then to substantiate his allegations, or submit to be branded as a convicted calumniator. Our postscript will probably show how he sped, and we have a shrewd suspicion that the turn-up of the whole affair will be that the member for Knaresborough will have crushed himself into a mummy. The Ecclesiastical

Courts bill, which will create twenty-five new sinecure judgeships for the benefit of barristers, was also read a second time; the strong government, which can defeat the efforts of a whole people, not having power enough (*credat Judæus*) to resist the demands of a few proctors and doctors. The bill is about one of the most scandalous jobs of the whole session.

And now for a little electioneering news. The contests which are going on, or have just terminated, for the seats vacated in consequence of the late legal promotions, have developed some curious facts. It is quite clear, for instance, that they are not affected by the political sentiments of the electors—that they are determined exclusively by the fiat of aristocratic nominees—that these patrons have got over all alarm respecting the power of the League to wrest from them what they now consider as their vested right—that the diffusion of information has no present chance of success against the dictation of lordly and interested proprietors—and that the next general election, as we have already surmised more than once, will not place the free traders in a stronger numerical position in the House of Commons than that which they now occupy. In Exeter the government candidate beat the free trader by three to one. In Huntingdon and Woodstock no advocate of the League principles appeared upon the scene. It is said, indeed, that these boroughs, even under the present system, will come round at length to independence and purity of election. They may do so, but we should think it will be somewhere about the commencement of the millennium. Our firm belief is, and has been, that the corn-law question can never be worked out by the present electoral machinery.

The Ten Hours Factory bill agitation has closed. Mr Oastler, who, assisted by several of the clergy, and in some cases by mill-owners, held meetings, during the past week, at Bolton, Stockport, Oldham, Blackburn, and Ashton, has come up to town, chivalrously resolved, spite of all party predilections, to accomplish his object, or to drive out Sir Robert Peel, and replace him by Lord John Russell. Mr Oastler, we fear, will find that he is overrating his own abilities—that he is not so expert, as a cabinet breaker or as a cabinet maker, as he himself supposes—that Sir Robert Peel will beat Lord Ashley without having the fear of Mr Oastler before his eyes, and that, having done so, he will remain in power until Mr Oastler has managed to acquire a vast accession of strength.

THE WORN-OUT POLITICAL DEBAUCHEE.

THERE is not, perhaps, amongst all the varieties of human degradation, a more pitiable object than the man in whom evil desire has outlived its means of gratification. Where the whole bert of the mind exhibits a rankness of depravity, whilst the force of outward circumstances precludes its complete development—where time and dissipation have swept away the ordinary opportunities of wrong-doing, but have left the appetite for it in undiminished keenness—where brutal passions swelter in their own heat, having access to no springs at which they may slake their thirst—human nature puts itself forth in its most disgusting forms. Nothing is more truly despicable than the senility of vice. The half-dimmed, but yet wanton, eye—the conversation which comes bubbling up from a dirty heart—the low craft, which crawls about in secret, and peers round on all sides in search of scraps of enjoyment—the peevishness and spite engendered by unfulfilled wishes—the shamelessness branded upon every outward aspect—oh! there is no more humiliating, no more revolting, sight than this, in the wide world. It is sin in her *déshabille*—when paint has destroyed her complexion, and rags show off her deformity. It is the *ne plus ultra* of moral loathsomeness.

We have herein no inapt a type of the British legislature. Feudality, its original sin, is rampant as ever in the heart of it—but the comparative enlightenment of the age is a perpetual check upon its natural propensities. It can intend evil—it can make its intentions apparent in the character of its legislation, and the tone of its debates—but it can only do evil on a small scale, and in a sneaking and pitiful manner. To all positive well-doing it is reprobate. Once, indeed, some twelve years since, it was seized with a sudden fit of resolution to reform its ways—and, in the freshness of its zeal, did some acts which wore a semblance of virtue. But it speedily became manifest that its inmost nature remained what it was—desires, which had been stunned for a time, soon revived—old habits resumed their pristine sway—and now, for many a session, it has turned away, with an evident revulsion of feeling, from all thoughts of active usefulness. It has now passed beyond the bounds of repentance. It is a confirmed political debauchee, but, happily, wanting power proportionate to its purposes. Accordingly, it commits sin by stealth—shows its vicious inclinations rather in what it entertains than what it enacts—lets out its pravity in words more than in deeds—crawls towards its victim, instead of, as heretofore, springing upon it—and discovers all the cunning littleness which

indicate that, although straitened in its means, it is unchanged at heart.

The course of the present session, hitherto, has remarkably brought out this feature of the legislature, and especially of the House of Commons. There is a majority in that assembly strong enough to fulfil their worst intentions, and they are animated by a desire depraved and selfish enough to bring ruin upon the empire. But their relative position to a people, already disgusted up to the very limits of endurance, forbids any large and open attempt upon public liberty. Their hereditary tendencies, therefore, run out in petty enterprises. Their Aristocratic Gamblers' Protection bill is a minute specimen of their friendship for the rich—their Masters and Servants bill a similar instance of their tyranny towards the poor. The Irish Registration and Franchise bill exhibits their cunning—the Inclosure bill of Lord Worsley their rapacity. The Ecclesiastical Courts bill, which, although not finally disposed of, yet, looked at as a government measure, the second reading of which has been carried by a large majority, may be considered as passed, proves them to have arrived at that pitch of shamelessness which hesitates not to rend its own resolutions of virtue in the very face of a gazing world. The entire record of the present session—what parliament has done, and what it has refused to do—its habitual postponement of all measures of importance—its full houses, its counting outs, and its no houses—its conflicting decisions in the case of Lord Ashley's proposition, and its evident intention of shirking its own conclusions—all combine to present to the eye of the world a picture of humiliation, senility, and dotage, such as may well suffuse with blushes the face of every British patriot.

There exist in abundance, in this empire, all the elements of national greatness. Did the legislature fairly express the mind of the people—their honesty, their common sense, their morality—its proceedings would command a general, if not a universal, respect. We might have many mistakes—here and there, possibly, an appearance of grotesqueness—but in the main, we should have integrity of purpose, seriousness of effort, and no little intellectual vigour, in constant exercise. The levity of the aristocratic spirit—that disposition to be solemn only on trifling matters, and to play with the most important—that inattention to real business, and interest in party and personal encounters, so distinctive of the present House of Commons, would, at all events, give place to something wearing the appearance of sobriety, earnestness, diligence, and dignity. We should not have an assembly intending to do evil, under flimsy and transparent guises of seeking to do good. We should not be perpetually tantalised with the moralisings of aged and worn-out feudality. There would be some correspondence between the political spirit of the nation, and its organised manifestation. There could, in such case, be no such unseemliness as fiddling whilst Rome was on fire—no exhibition of puerilities in old age. Men thoroughly in earnest about anything, however mistaken they might be, would show a moral bearing more erect, more comely, more manlike, than it is possible for our present legislature to assume.

The present aspect of affairs certainly holds out to us one consolation—senility precedes dissolution. The bounding mind and heaving heart of a great nation cannot, for any lengthened period, be humbled into tame subservency by prescriptive imbecility. Feudalism, without even a relic of its once chivalrous spirit, will be unable much longer to lead about, by the chain of mere conventional usages, a people whose literature, whose scientific achievements, whose industrial enterprise, and whose substantial morality, are the wonder and the envy of the world. The withered forms of government which have come down to us from mediæval times, are, on all sides, cracking—and indications are not wanting that ere long the ever-increasing pressure from within will cast them off, as the snake does its old year's skin. Many a struggle may be needed before that desirable change is completed. But completed it will be—and the recklessness of our legislators is but hastening on the inevitable crisis.

THE CORIOLANUS OF THE OPERATIVES.

LORD ASHLEY has announced the course he intends to pursue with regard to the new ministerial edition of the Factories bill. He will allow it to be read a second time and to pass through committee without opposition. He will take his debate on the third reading, when he will propose the addition to the bill of certain clauses embodying his views on the subject of ten hours labour. These clauses, however, will provide for a very gradual introduction of his remedial arrangement. On the first of October in the present year the daily *maximum* of work in factories is to be reduced to eleven hours; and not until October, 1847, does he propose the ten-hours system to take effect. We need hardly say that the mode of parliamentary warfare he has chosen is the most disadvantageous for his adopted cause which it was

possible for him to pitch upon—the one offering to his antagonists the greatest facilities for ensuring his defeat; nor that the timid and hesitating manner in which he has resolved upon realising the benefits of his scheme is sure to cool down the enthusiasm of his own supporters. He has selected, on the one hand, the worst position he could occupy, and, on the other, he has so lowered his demands as to discourage the chivalry of his own troops. He will, consequently, be beaten hollow.

Of Lord Ashley's sincerity we entertain no doubt. We believe him to be as much in earnest as the web of aristocratic conventionalism in which he is entangled will suffer him to be. We doubt not his lordship's philanthropy—but it is a philanthropy hedged around on all sides by the maxims and habits of the patrician order. Many have questioned the genuineness of his benevolence, because it never clashes with the seeming interests of his class. What a harrowing tale, say they, might he weave out of the report lately presented, on the employment of women and children in agricultural pursuits. How comes it that his sympathies evermore turn to the manufacturing districts, or to foreign climes? Why does he advocate the food monopoly? Why patronise injustice and oppression on the largest scale on which it is possible for them to exhibit themselves? We reply, for the simple reason that Lord Ashley's natural tendencies are all circumscribed by his conventional ones. A feeling heart in a noble's bosom will develop its humanity under forms peculiar to itself. It is not that the man is insensible to distress and wrong, in whatever quarter it may show itself, but that the nobleman never looks for them in quarters nearest home. Education and habit have taught him to keep the window of his mind which looks out in the direction of aristocratic delinquencies, always closed in and barred with shutters, and he can no more see what is going on outside thereof, than could Nelson when he clapped his telescope to his blind eye. Lord Ashley's heart, therefore, is sensitive on all sides of it but one—and upon that particular side the prejudice of birth and station has made it adipose.

For the same reason the noble member for Dorsetshire, in common with all aristocrats, whig and tory, is unfitted to lead on the people to assured victory. The Coriolanus invariably relents when he comes within sight of the walls of Rome. It is not that he means treachery; but he knows not the force of those numerous ties which bind him to his order. Just on the eve of triumph he begins to falter; and the more decided his advantages, the more quick are his fears. He has not calculated upon the witchery of those embassies which troop forth to obstruct his further progress. He has not steeled his soul against the remonstrances of his second nature. The parent of his conventional being has only to say in mockery—

"Come, let us go:

This fellow had a Volscian to his mother"—

when his resolution fails him. He yields. He turns to his ally and excuses himself—

"Anfidius, though I cannot make true wars, I'll frame convenient peace. Now, good Anfidius, Were you in my stead, would you have heard A mother less? or granted less, Anfidius?"

Lord Ashley truly intended victory, but not at the cost of a tory administration. If, indeed, for a moment, and from a distance, he contemplated passing on to his object, even though it should be over the mangled remains of a conservative cabinet, he found himself unprepared to push his heroism so far when he had his friends actually at his feet. He lifted his foot thrice, as if he meant to hurry onwards; but class sympathies overcome him, and he suffers them to rise. The people will learn at length, after repeated disappointments, that under patrician leadership their cause is never safe.

TAKING IT EASY.

THE House of Commons seems to have derived no essential benefit from its Easter holidays. Its appetite for work is not a bit the keener—its habit of procrastination is as potent as ever. "To-morrow, and to-morrow, and to-morrow" would be an appropriate motto to write over the Speaker's chair. The representatives of the people, as they style themselves, are always intending to buckle to in earnest—but perfunctoriness overcomes them. To pass the supplies is, indeed, a matter of necessity—a business which will brook no delay; but, then, it may always be done by a handful of members, and there are always ministerial dependents enough to bring this work to an early close. Moreover, the class out of which our representatives are selected, is interested in furnishing government with the wherewithal—in pumping up water into that central reservoir out of which their own cisterns are mostly filled. Seldom, therefore, do we find this branch of our legislators' duties neglected. In all other respects, one would gather, from the conduct of the House, that the country can do as well without parliament as with it. The first half of the session is frittered away in accumulating business for the latter half. The begin-

ning of that latter half is divided between evenings on which "no house" is made, and evenings spent in fruitless talk on minor affairs, in no single one of which can a hundred men, out of doors, be found to take an interest. At length, all the really important questions of the session come on *en masse*. It is then found that time is far too limited to allow of their being maturely considered. They are, consequently, dropped altogether, or dealt with in the most hurried and bungling style.

The secret of this phenomenon does not lie deep. Let any one glance at the mode in which the pending elections are being conducted, and he will find that among the elements of a candidate's success, the very last is the sentiments of the electors. Indeed, political men have ceased to busy themselves in making the needless inquiry, now-a-days, as to the prevalent opinions of small borough constituencies. Whether Woodstock shall have a Thesiger or a Marquis of Blandford depends, not on the will of its burgesses, but on the disposal of a garter. Exeter, Huntingdon, and Horsesham, will return members upon grounds equally remote from the people's advantage. Even the League can hardly ruffle the stagnant waters. The gale which lashes ocean into a fury, does but sweep the surface of the frozen pool. The agitation which roused London, is powerless at Woodstock. Our smaller constituencies are all ice-bound. Aristocratic influence has congealed them into immoveable masses. Men are not returned to the House of Commons to do the people's work, but only to make a show of doing it whilst they serve their nominees. They are true to their calling. They vote the supplies—they postpone everything else. To give away the people's money they are always ready—to legislate for the people's well-being, never. They were appointed to do the first—they are under no obligation to do the last.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

Birmingham, April 22nd, 1844.

The Council of the Complete Suffrage Union met at their rooms, 37, Waterloo street, here, to-day—the President in the chair.

Letters were read from several parties. The following is a copy of an address which was issued last week to the electors of Exeter, in reference to the vacancy which has occurred in the representation there; similar addresses were sent to the electors of Huntingdon and Woodstock:—

"THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL COMPLETE SUFFRAGE UNION TO THE ELECTORS OF EXETER.

"You are again called upon to exercise your political franchise. Deem us not intrusive when we respectfully and earnestly request, that you will not support any candidate who will not pledge himself to contend for 'full, fair, and free representation,' and as a means to obtain this end, will take his stand on the ancient parliamentary practice, that redress of grievances should precede the voting of supplies.

"Make no compromise of the principle, that every male citizen of twenty-one years of age is entitled and ought to possess the elective franchise, with such provision as will render its exercise full, fair, and free. Pledge your candidate to support the supply movement, because the practical application of the rule—redress of grievances before granting the supplies—necessarily implies the adoption of Complete Suffrage, inasmuch as the monster grievance, non-representation, must be among the first removed.

"In tendering this advice, we offer no apology for urging it on the immediate consideration of the electors of Exeter, because we feel that an honest and straightforward suffrage candidate must of necessity be the uncompromising friend of civil, religious, and commercial freedom, while no qualification short of this affords a guarantee that justice will be done to the people; and because it is our deliberate opinion that until Complete Suffrage becomes the law of the land, the good of the many must ever be sacrificed to the advantage of the few.

"On behalf of the Council,
"JOSEPH STURGE, Chairman.

"Birmingham, 4th Mo. (April) 18, 1844."

The other business before the Council was of a routine nature.

EDINBURGH.—On Monday evening Mr Vincent delivered his second lecture to a crowded and enthusiastic audience in the Argyle Square church. Councillor Stott occupied the chair. We take the following extract from his lecture, together with a notice of his third lecture, from the *Edinburgh Weekly Chronicle*:—

"From the feudal time till now, the people have been their own emancipators. It was the growth of intelligence amongst the masses that rendered them unable to maintain a system of serfdom. It was the rapid development of trade and commerce, the growth of towns and cities, that struck a blow at their feudal authority. The serfs no longer lingered upon the soil. From beneath the buttresses of lordly domains they crawled away to the towns and cities, and there, congregating their hardy spirits together, they laid the foundations of popular freedom and of representative institutions. I tell the aristocracy, however humble and insignificant my voice may be, that the day shall come yet, when there shall be power enough in England to re-conquer the privileges that are gone [enthusiastic cheers]. The day shall yet come when, within the walls of the present House of Commons, there shall be heard the language of constitutional truth; and though we, as the friends of universal freedom, do not base our argument exclusively upon the

ground of any constitutional claim; though we go deeper, and take for our charter the great book our God has given to us as our guide, wherein he proclaims the common brotherhood of our race, and enjoins us to love one another, to honour all men, and do unto others as we would they should do unto us; still, in the presence of their usurping institutions, we will show upon the authority of history, that we have precedents also, for the claims that we make—we will charge the aristocracy with despoiling our Saxon ancestors of their birthright—with inflicting upon us the badge and infamy of feudalism—with originating primogeniture, and its long train of evils—with usurping the great concern of civil government—with having possessed themselves of the lands of the nation, and raised their value artificially by the exercise of their own political authority—with wasting the nation's resources in inhuman and unchristian wars, until they have swelled for our misery a debt to the amount of eight hundred millions of pounds—and with having raised the revenue of our country to the enormous amount of fifty millions per annum, while, in consequence of their political monopoly, they throw the great bulk of taxation upon the people, and contribute not more than two millions per annum themselves [loud and repeated applause]. All this we will tell them, and from them we will turn in kindly and Christian appeal to the conscience, the heart, and the mind of our country, and we will ask the generous-hearted, the noble, and the patriotic, whether they think the time has not come when England should take her own affairs into her own hands again—when the loom, and the anvil, and the plough, and the literature, and the philosophy, and the religion, and the wealth, and the capital, and the solid glory of the land, should constitute the basis of the government, and when the mere prerogatives and musty parchments of a privileged class should stand down before human rights [vehement cheering]."

Mr Vincent was repeatedly and deservedly applauded during the course of his lecture, which is considered one of his most successful efforts; and at its conclusion, John Dunlop, Esq., of Brockloch, in a short address, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Vincent for his interesting, clear, and instructive exposition of the important subject of his lecture, which was carried by acclamation. [Mr Vincent's second lecture excited so much interest in Edinburgh, that he has been invited to re-deliver it on his return from the north of Scotland.]

On Wednesday evening, Mr Vincent delivered his third and concluding lecture in Dr Ritchie's church, Potter row, "On the present state of the country, and the necessity and safety of complete suffrage." John Dunlop, Esq., was called to the chair, and made a few introductory remarks. Mr Vincent then entered upon the subject of his lecture, and for the space of nearly two hours kept the attention of his auditors entranced by the clearness, force, and eloquence of his statements. The lecturer was throughout greeted with enthusiastic plaudits. Mr Vincent, in giving an exposition of the state of the country, showed that the grasping spirit of aristocracy, not contented with its legitimate influence on the constitution, had seized upon the popular branch of the legislature also, and thus deprived the people of their fair share in the government of the country; even Lord John Russell had declared in the House of Commons that the reform bill was intended to give the preponderance in the House to the landed interest. Mr Vincent showed that such a course was just what might be expected from a class of men who have enjoyed power so long, and have so arranged the laws and institutions of the country as that the pecuniary interests of the aristocratic families are involved in the continuance of the present system of government. But are the interests of the few to be preferred to those of the great body of the people? All classes are rising up to protest against the undue influence of the aristocracy in our legislative system. The manufacturing and commercial interests are in league against the corn laws. The friends of freedom of conscience are combining against the connexion between church and state, and a general spirit of disaffection is abroad. What is to be done? Destroy the monopoly of legislation. Give the people the election of their legislators, and justice will be done to all classes in the community. Mr Vincent, in the conclusion of his lecture, showed the fallacy of various objections urged against the granting of complete suffrage, and exhorted all present to support the complete suffrage movement. He was glad to see that in the present day, the people were more disposed to look to principle than to party—and he was not sorry that a decided movement had taken place in Edinburgh last week, the effect of which would be to break up the whole system of whig domination, and in some measure to throw open the representation to men who would do the people's work honestly, uninfluenced by "party" or personal considerations. At the conclusion of Mr Vincent's lecture, Mr Dalrymple moved a vote of thanks to Mr V., which was enthusiastically responded to by the meeting. The church was well filled by a respectable audience, who seemed deeply interested during the whole of the proceedings.

KIRKCALDY, FIFE.—On Thursday and Friday last Henry Vincent addressed two meetings in the independent chapel of this town, on the suffrage question. It being the fair week, the meetings were not crowded; but the spirit of the audiences was cordial in the highest degree. Votes of thanks were awarded to Mr Vincent by acclamation.

RELEASE OF CHARTIST PRISONERS.—Four chartists named William Moorhouse, John Faithurst, Robert Wild, and James Wild, were liberated from Knutsford house of correction on Thursday last, about four months before the expiration of the term of their imprisonment. These parties were tried before Lord Abinger at the Chester assizes, 1842, on charges of sedition, &c., arising out of the part they took at various meetings near Hyde, during the great turn-out of factory operatives.

General News.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.

The grand debate upon the affairs of Tahiti, which was fixed to come on in the Chamber of Deputies on Friday, took an unexpected, and, upon the whole, a rather ridiculous turn. The attack of the opposition upon the ministry, notwithstanding its formidable appearance, the care taken in its preparation, the powerful combination of which it was formed, and the ability, boldness, and experience of its leaders, has been completely defeated by the superior parliamentary tact and skill of M. Guizot. On Friday, M. Guizot allowed the opposition, by the mouth of their champion, M. Billault, to open up their system of attack, to expend a great deal of excellent eloquence and elaborate arguments, and when he had by these means ascertained the whole of the case to be made out against him, he completely turned the tables by presenting to the House a bundle of nearly forty additional documents on the affairs of Tahiti, all of them, according to him, of the utmost importance to the proper elucidation of the subject. These he strongly recommended to the careful consideration of the opposition members, and as it was quite impossible that the debate could be brought to a conclusion until the contents of these papers were known, and as it was also evident, from their number, that it was impossible they could be studied at once, he suggested that the debate should be adjourned, so that the honourable members might have an opportunity of consulting and considering these interesting documents at their leisure. The opposition were completely taken by surprise. They were, therefore, not prepared with any other plan; and had nothing for it but to agree to the suggestion thrown out by the minister, and consent to the adjournment of the debate.

In the Chamber of Deputies, on Saturday, a long discussion took place on several petitions presented from the different consistories of the French Reformed church, praying for the free exercise of their religion. The number of members of the reformed church in France is very large; but in some districts, where the congregations are small, they are unable to build churches. In such cases the members of the Reformed church are deprived of the exercise of public worship altogether; for though the 5th article of the charter allows liberty of conscience to all classes of Christians, they cannot hold meetings in private houses, because they would then make themselves amenable to 291st article of the penal code, the object of which is to prevent the meeting of private and unauthorised assemblages of people. The petitioners, therefore, prayed that religious meetings should not be held as falling within the meaning of the 291st article of the penal code. They stated, in support of that prayer, that several of the royal courts, and among others, the courts of Rennes and Orleans, had several times decided that religious assemblies did not fall within the meaning of the law.

The committee of the Chamber of Deputies, to which these petitions were referred, reported in favour of the prayer of the petitioners; and their reporter, M. de Haussenville, after a statement of the facts, moved, on the part of the committee, that the petitions be referred to the Minister of Justice and of Public Worship, with a recommendation that he should accede to the prayer of the petitioners, and introduce a measure to declare that the 291st article of the penal code did not apply to religious assemblages.

After a rather smart discussion, M. Dupin moved the order of the day, and after two doubtful divisions, *par assis et levé*, the order of the day was carried (by ballot) by a majority of 107 to 91.

M. Guizot stated on Friday that Admiral Dupetit Thouars had not been formally recalled, and that Admiral Hamelin, who (and this sounds strangely) had been appointed to replace him at Otaheite, had not sailed in the vessel in which he was to have proceeded to the South Seas, and which ship, the *Ariane*, had subsequently been ordered to another destination.

SPAIN.

The new law against the press, issued by Narvaez and Bravo, declares that no one shall edit a paper without paying 1,000 reals annual taxes, and without lodging 12,000 reals caution money; and that no one shall be a jurymen to try a crime of the press who does not pay 2,000 reals direct taxes. Writings may be subversive, seditious, or immoral. To reflect upon the King's person or prerogative, or the Chambers, or the catholic religion, or to destroy the fundamental law of the state, is subversive, and to be punished with 80,000 reals fine. Surely never was anything so subversive of the fundamental law of the state as this ordinance of Senor Bravo.

Preparations for the invasion of Morocco were making at Puerto de Santa Maria, where a fine brigade of artillery, destined for the expedition, had been already organised. M. Casillo was about to leave on a special mission to the court of Rome.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

SAFETY OF JOHN L. BROWN.—By the *Emancipator and Weekly Chronicle* of the 23rd of March, we are assured of the fact that John L. Brown "will not be hanged." It seems that a public meeting was held on his case at Pittsburgh, the resolutions of which were forwarded to Judge O'Neill, a deputation also being intended. Stung by the severity of the remarks made, the judge sent for publication a letter of which the following is the principal portion:—"John L. Brown is a native of Fairfield district; he

was tried, and convicted on very clear proof of aiding a negro woman to run away and depart from her employer's service. The proof created a strong belief that the woman had been his kept mistress for some time. The act under which he was convicted was passed 11th May, 1754, and is nearly 100 years old, and could therefore have had no direction against the abolition folly of the present day; although I have no doubt it may check such philanthropy as that of the editor of the inclosed, if he should ever venture to try his hand in stealing a negro, or aiding one to run away. How a judge can be justly styled a murderer for enforcing the law of the state whose officer he may be, is rather strange; perhaps the editor can find something in the new code of morals, of which he seems to be an exponent, which may justify it. Our revolutionary sires thought precious little of the rascals who stole or aided negroes to run away. Little of their blood would have been poured out to keep such from the gallows; they would sooner, much sooner, have tied the noose than cut it with their swords. Say to the worthy editor of the inclosed that John L. Brown will not be hanged. By the recommendation of myself and my brethren of the court of appeal he was pardoned by the Governor, on the condition of receiving, on Friday, the 26th of April next, at Winstonsborough, thirty-nine lashes on his bare back. If the editor will then and there attend, I have no doubt John L. Brown will gladly accompany him to the west, where he can soothe and cherish him as one of 'the young and ardent men' who loved negro women, and advised them to escape from slavery. JOHN BOLTON O'NEALL."—*Anti-slavery Reporter*.

ANOTHER MASSACRE.—The *Sydney Herald* gives a paragraph, stating that the Brigand, a vessel which left New Zealand for the South Sea Islands, had returned to Newcastle after a short absence, the crew having had an affray with the natives. The Brigand, it seems, left New Zealand with emigrants, who were about proceeding to establish a colony at one of the New Hebrides; but whilst on her passage to that place put in at Marree, one of the Britannia group. Here the natives came on board; and the captain having paid no regard to numbers, they attempted by violence to seize the ship, and make the crew and passengers prisoners. They were routed after some hard fighting, but not before several of the seamen were killed. Some of the emigrants, described as woodcutters, who went on shore, had never returned, and, on the authority of a friendly chief, who had seen the captain subsequently, they are said to have been murdered and eaten. Including those massacred on board, it is supposed that seventeen persons in all have met their death in this affray.

TAHITI.—By the last advices we learn that the French were busily engaged in fortifying Papiiti, and were already at work upon five batteries and a fortress. The Governor had taken possession of the house of Queen Pomare, as a palace for himself, and the Queen was residing with Mr Pritchard.

HAYTI.—The *Moniteur Parisien* states that, according to the last arrivals from Hayti, the government of the island has come to the resolution that no foreigners shall hereafter have the right to purchase or hold lands within the territory, unless they are subjects of governments who have emancipated their slaves. The *Constitutionnel* contends that this resolution, if really adopted, is a breach of the treaty between Hayti and France, by which France was to be put upon an equal footing with the most favoured nations.

TURKEY.—Our Constantinople letter of the 3rd instant, mentions the discovery of a conspiracy to attack the Frank population, and the transportation to the islands in the Sea of Marmora of about 15,000 Mussulmans, suspected of being engaged in the plot.—*Times*.

AUSTRIA.—The *Gazette des Tribunaux* announces that the Emperor of Austria has published an imperial ordinance, interdicting, under the severest penalties of fine and imprisonment, any catholic subject of his Majesty to embrace protestantism without having previously obtained an express permission from the government, which permission will not be granted except in serious circumstances, and until the competent authorities shall have admitted the necessity for such a change.

ITALY.—Accounts from Italy, of the 14th instant, state that tranquillity was everywhere re-established. The prisoners arrested and in custody in Rome and in Naples had been, or were about to be, liberated.

NAPLES.—A telegraphic despatch was received by the French government on Saturday, which announces that the Queen of Naples had been safely delivered of a daughter, on the 14th.

THE SIN AND SHAME OF AMERICA.—The advertisements of a newspaper, it has often been remarked, are a mirror in which the state of society is reflected. Well, then, we have now before us the *Vicksburg Daily Whig* of the 5th ult., and how revolting the reflection it presents of society in the United States! In its advertising columns are offered for sale, among other commodities, the following:—

A very likely negro man, aged 26.
200,000 feet of seasoned lumber.
Fifty acclimated slaves, consisting of men, women, boys, girls, and a few children.
5,000lb of hogs' heads and jowls.
A likely negro girl, thirteen years old.
Ten half-barrels of mackerel.
A likely woman, and her two children.
150 barrels of mess pork.
Several likely negroes.
Mrs Gore's new novel, "The Birth Right!"

A reward of £5 is offered for the recovery of "a dark-brown mare, stolen or strayed;" and "a negro boy," captured on suspicion of being "a runaway," is advertised as being "committed to gaol," until "the owner comes forward, pays charges, and takes him away; failing which, the boy will be dealt with as the law directs." That is, sold for his "keep," of

course. Out upon thee, thou "land of freedom!" "Go mend! go mend!"—*Gateshead Observer*.

CRITICAL STATE OF CUBA.—The intelligence from Cuba by the last mail is of the deepest interest; and, while it is calculated, on the one hand, to awaken sympathy for the suffering negroes, it is not less calculated, on the other, to inspire animating hopes of some salutary change. It appears that the alarm excited by the two insurrections of the slaves in the neighbourhood of Matanzas, in November last, has induced a course of extreme severity, not only towards the parties known to have been implicated, but towards the negroes in general. The government and planters have made extensive and rigorous inquiries, with a view to ascertain whether any concert existed among the slaves, and, if so, to what objects it was directed; and it is said that a negro on one of the five sugar estates which followed the movement of the Triumvirato (the sugar estate on which the revolt commenced) has revealed to her master what in the letters is called "a dreadful plot." In consequence of this, there have been arrested a large number of negroes, together with three white men, the latter of whom were put in prison at Matanzas. More than fifteen hundred slaves were summoned, in order to witness the execution of sixteen of their companions, with the view of inspiring terror; but it is stated that these men went to their death with such an air of intrepidity and triumph, that the effect produced on the spectators was the opposite of that which was intended. From this it has resulted, that the government has refrained from further public executions, and has rather given the negroes over in a mass to be punished by their masters at pleasure, and with as little noise as possible. The consequence of such a measure may well be imagined; and yet imagination must fail to realise it. The resentment of the planters, aggravated by their fears, is without bounds, and murderous cruelties are practised without scruple on every hand. Many slaves have already died under the lash, and the whole island is said to be deluged in blood. The investigations of the government have elicited the fact that four or five large estates between Guines and Melena had been implicated in the plot said to have been discovered. From the uniform declarations of the negroes, it appears that the opinion has spread among them that they either are free, or ought to be so. Some are persuaded that the Queen of Spain has sent out two *cartas* to the governor, giving them their freedom; some have been told that they are free, as having been imported since 1820, and therefore contrary to the treaty with England; and some have arrived at the noble sentiment that they ought to be free, because they are men, as well as their masters. Several free negroes are reported to have been implicated in the plot, and its object is said to have been known by all the negroes in the country. In their distress, the immediate and most urgent cry of the planters is—"Stop the slave-trade; bring us no more negroes!" But to this the Captain-general will lend no ear. The petitions on this subject, of which our readers have already heard, were got up and presented to him by men of the first rank and influence, some of them nobles of Spain; but he received them with a most repulsive discourtesy. It seems that a political feeling artfully is connected with this subject; and that the government chooses to suspect all who object to the slave trade, of disaffection to Spain, and a desire after the political independence of Cuba. The real reason, however, why even the present calamities cannot interrupt the slave trade is, that it yields such immense wealth to the functionaries who possess the government, and who are largely bribed by half a dozen desperate speculators to connive at its continuance.—*Anti-slavery Reporter*.—The following is the substance of later intelligence from Matanzas:—The disaffection among the slaves is more general than it was at first supposed. It is said that there are about 3,000 slaves in irons in the different forts in the vicinity of Matanzas. Numbers are daily tried, and immediately shot. A regiment of troops had just arrived from Havana for the purpose of scouring the country.

MASSACRE AT GUALLAN, OR STRONG'S ISLAND.—The *Sussex*, Captain Hammer, brings intelligence of the slaughter of the crew of an English ship, by the natives of the above place—one of the South Sea islands. He gained the facts from an American captain on the spot, who had with much difficulty compelled the natives to give an account of the transaction. According to their statement, the Harriet had put into the island for wood and water, and the intercourse between her crew and the natives was apparently carried on in the usual friendly manner. One day, shortly after their arrival, the captain and the surgeon went ashore shooting—two boats' crews being engaged in collecting wood, and one in taking in water. Out of a crew of 27 to 30 persons, only five remained on board the ship, and this fact doubtless being observed by the natives, they simultaneously attacked the different parties, killing each almost instantaneously. The five persons on board observed the attack on their comrades, and, seeing a number of canoes putting off towards the vessel, they hastily embarked in a boat, and have not since been heard of. The natives then scuttled and sunk the vessel in eight fathoms water: many parts of the wreck have been discovered by Captain Hammer, and the American, Captain Rounds. The Harriet was the property of Messrs Boulcott, of Paul's wharf, London. She left England in June, 1839. No tidings had been heard of her during the last eighteen months, and her owners had recently effected an additional insurance of £1,500, making a total of £7,500. Many of her crew left her at Sydney, whose places were supplied by others: it is therefore impossible to give the names of those lost, correctly. It is generally believed that three other vessels have been destroyed in a similar manner at the same island.

THE SLAVE TRADE.—The slaver Josephine, Lieutenant Jamieson in charge, one of the three slavers captured by her Majesty's steamer Thunderbolt, arrived at the Table bay on January 29, having on board 457 negroes; viz., 240 males and 217 females. The other two slavers had not reached port, but were daily expected.

THE OPERATIVE CLASSES AT NAPLES AND ROME.—One of the continental papers tells us that nowhere do the operative classes suffer more than at Naples and Rome:—

The English and French can form no idea of it. They believe such an assertion to be a calumny, or at least an exaggeration, when you are told there exists no right of property in those states. The King of Naples, or the Pope, takes possession of your house or land, or the part which suits him. You reclaim to the authorities; they are deaf or dumb, and you may esteem yourself fortunate if, at the end of some years, you obtain the half or the quarter of the indemnity due to you. If you have a lawsuit with a prelate, a nobleman, or a cardinal, you are sure to lose it, or to have the judgment postponed *ad infinitum*. If you are robbed, and have the good fortune to seize and bring the thief before the police, you will have the mortification, after a few days, to meet the robber in the street, and to be obliged to purchase your own property from the receivers of stolen goods.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

LEAGUE MEETING AT COVENT GARDEN.—The Anti-corn-law League held its first weekly meeting after the Easter recess, on Wednesday night, at Covent Garden theatre; and the leading men, as they entered, were received with more than usual enthusiasm, though the attendance was somewhat thinner than on former occasions. Mr Cobden was called to the chair. He reported meetings at which he and some of his coadjutors attended during the recess. Several electoral vacancies had occurred, but the chapter of accidents had not been very favourable to the League; for, if they had chosen the field, they would not have gone to Horsham, Huntingdon, or Woodstock. However, in every instance of a vacancy occurring, a contest would be fought, if a local man could be found to be put up by his own voters, even if he should poll only 20. Mr Cobden declared that the League did not seek to dictate to constituencies, but only to co-operate with them; and that they did not spend the funds in boroughmongering or bribing, but in preventing bribery and in educating the constituencies. He announced a new project. The Council of the League intended to comply with the wish of several ladies, and to hold a bazaar in Covent Garden theatre before the close of the season:—

I am anxious to have a collection of specimens of every manufacture in this kingdom brought to this focus. We will have everything in metal, from a steam engine to a needle; we will have a specimen of everything in silks, from the richest embroidered garment down to the humblest ribbon; we will have specimens of everything produced in England in linen and in cotton goods; we will bring together everything which the manufactures of England produce, at the exhibition in this theatre; and when we have brought these materials together, we will invite the monopolists—we will invite the restrictionists—to come and see this collection. We will point to it as a proof of what the unguarded, the unaided, the unprotected, skill of England can do, without the protection or the help of the Duke of Richmond or the Duke of Buckingham; and having brought them to view this exhibition, we will put this question, and this question only, to them—"Do you think that the hands which produced these ingenious articles ought to be hanging idly by the sides of men who are pining for want of bread?"

This announcement was much cheered. The meeting was addressed at considerable length by Mr Ward, who made an interesting and telling speech, the chief object of which was to prove that London had as great an interest in the cause of free trade as any other part of the empire, and that it was far more important to the citizens of the metropolis than the maintenance of an aristocracy. To establish his position, Mr Ward gave a variety of valuable statistical information. The magnitude of the interests of the metropolis might be judged of from the following description:—

There were 100,000 houses of business, to half of which shops were attached [hear, hear], and all the details were upon the same gigantic scale. The water companies supplied 237 millions of hogsheads per year; the gas companies supplied ten millions of cubic feet every twenty-four hours; of ale and porter there were consumed two millions of barrels every year; at Smithfield, in 1839, there were sold, cattle, 180,780, sheep, 1,403,400; there came 70 millions of eggs annually from the continent; the paving and sewerage of London cost half a million, at least; its newspapers used 30 millions of stamps per annum; its steam boats carried 10,000 passengers daily, in pursuit of business or health; we had 1,000 miles of railway completed, at a cost of 47 millions, and 59 canals, at a cost of 144 millions, connecting it with the most distant parts. The monthly business transacted by London bankers through the clearing-houses averaged £75,000,000; it had been as high as £87,000,000. Put all these elements of greatness together—add the intelligence and enterprise of London merchants—the skill and industry of her people—and we may challenge the world to produce such a combination of power and wealth [hear, hear]. Then take the population of London. In 1801 it was 888,198; in 1831, 1,508,469; in 1841, 1,832,699; or two millions in round numbers now. Its length from east to west was five miles and a half, or, reckoning from Chelsea to Blackwall, seven miles and a half. Its breadth from north to south was three miles and a half—a principality of brick. It had a river which marked it out for the seat of commerce from the earliest times, crossed by six bridges which cost 5,000,000. London bridge alone cost 2,000,000; Southwark, 800,000; Waterloo, 1,150,000. The London docks covered 100 acres; the vaults contained cellars for 65,000 pipes of wine. The

port of London in 1840 received 2950 ships, tonnage, 581,000, manned by 32,000 men. The tonnage of the colliers in the river in the same year was 2,628,323. The tonnage of vessels trading with the colonies (1683 ships) in that year was 417,139; with Ireland (907 ships), 142,000; and those engaged in the coasting trade, colliers included (20,205 ships), 2,686,621; 3166 British and 2335 foreign vessels, of 921,404 tons: total tonnage, 4,167,164—from Russia, Sweden, Germany, Holland, France, the Mediterranean, China, and the United States. London had paid, upon an average of the last ten years, eleven millions in customs duties, out of the twenty-three millions and a half to which the total customs revenue of the United Kingdom amounts. The value of the produce that entered and left her port had been roughly estimated at eighty millions per annum; while two thousand merchants and brokers had their counting-houses within a mile and a half of the Exchange [loud cheers].

He then proceeded to apply this great fact:—

And when they looked at the enormous trade of London, let them ask themselves what proportion of it was contributed by the aristocracy of the country [hear, hear]. Why, the custom of the aristocracy was a mere drop of water in the ocean, compared with the mighty movement of the trade of London [hear, hear]. It was not the aristocracy which had created the greatness of London; they merely came up to town at certain periods of the year to share in it [hear, hear]. It was not the landlords who had made London what it was, but London that attracted the landowners. The aristocracy came up to town every spring, like so many birds of paradise, to sport their gilded plumage in the parks, in the promenades, in the play, at court, at the opera, and so forth; but they had very little indeed to do with the creation of London [hear, hear]. As to all the classes, other than the landowners, there was no question at all but that the gain to them by a repeal of the corn laws would be immediate and immense. Merchants and bankers, fundholders (and there were twenty-eight millions of money divided every year among these), artists and professional men, annuitants, government employés and clerks, men who had fortunes abroad and came to spend them at home, men of variable and men of fixed income—all would alike benefit by the change [hear, hear].

Colonel Thompson and Mr George Thompson followed; the latter gentleman directing his attention chiefly to the subject of free trade in relation to slavery, a topic which just now excites peculiar interest. The following is an extract on the subject:—

I will admit that, as an exhibition of consistent principle, and a means of putting down slavery, men who profess to abhor slavery should refrain from the use of the produce of slavery; but I utterly deny the right of the legislature (unsupported by the voice of the people) to force me or any other man to abstain from the use of it. To me I confess it appears a glaring inconsistency, to seek to maintain one principle by the violation of another—to defend the rights of men in one direction, and to invade them and utterly destroy them in another [hear, hear]. How much more noble would it be to say, Our ports are open—open to the produce of every clime, that our people may buy that which is the cheapest and the best. We will interfere with no man's conscience. We will force no man to buy this, or to abstain from that [hear, hear]. We will say to other countries that continue slavery, We will not fight with you, for that would be doing evil that good may come. We will not levy prohibitory duties, for that would be a violation of the principle of free trade, and a coercive measure in reference to the population of this country. But we will not cease to hold up your slave systems to censure and execration. We will remonstrate as individuals, as societies, and as a nation [cheers]. We will encourage in every quarter your free labour competitors. We will, as a government, do justice to our own magnificent dependencies. Instead of impeding the progress of native industry in India, we will stimulate and reward it. We will welcome the sugar, the rice, the cotton, and the tobacco of the lands where the sigh of the slave mingles not with the whispers of the breeze, but where the friendly voices of willing labourers are heard in uncursed fields and free and happy homes. Sell your sugar and your coffee while you can; but while you do so, we will train the consciences of men until they shall voluntarily reject that which you grow, and reject that which bears the taint of slavery about it. Yes, and we will attend your consciences, too. We will let you have no rest. Our cannon shall be spiked, and left to rust, but we will open our moral batteries, and fire shots which break no bones, and spill no blood; but, while bending the hearts of men, shall lead them to yield the claims of justice, and teach them that honesty is the best policy [hear, hear].

ACCIDENT RELIEF SOCIETY.—The annual dinner of the Accident Relief Society, for affording assistance to the families of the suffering poor, in cases of sudden injury, took place on Friday evening, at the Albion tavern, Aldersgate street. The Most Noble the Marquis of Northampton took the chair. Amongst the company present were, Lord J. Manners, Lord Alford, W. Evans, Esq., M.P., J. Conder, Esq., and several clergymen. In the course of the evening it was stated that the society had agents who regularly visited the accident wards in the London hospitals, for the purpose of ascertaining of the unfortunate persons brought there, the number and address of the families depending upon their daily toil for a subsistence. The agents then visited, for the time, their bereaved homes, and afforded that relief which was so peculiarly needed in their affliction. The knowledge that a helping hand was in this way extended to their destitute wives and children, had in many instances greatly accelerated the recovery of wounded labourers and workmen. During the past year the society had been extensively useful, and thousands of the humbler classes had had cause to bless its founders and patrons. The total amount of subscriptions was above £1,000, being £350 beyond the amount raised the previous year. Amongst the names in the list, were those of the chairman, 20 guineas (additional); Miss Burdett Coutts, £50; Lord Alford, 5 guineas, annually; Mr Evans, M.P., 10 guineas, &c., &c.

THE MORAL AND RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF IRELAND.—An interesting lecture was delivered last night in the Rev. Dr Bennett's chapel, Falcon square, by the Rev. J. W. Massie, of Manchester, on behalf

of the Baptist Irish Society. The rev. lecturer, who is well acquainted with Ireland and its social condition, instructed a highly respectable audience in a way not usual at meetings of this kind, and described the causes and cure of the miseries of Ireland with a frank, honest, open boldness, which, if not very pleasing to mere partisans, must, at least, have been exceedingly acceptable to all who love truth for its own sake. He commenced by glancing at the natural aspect and scenery of Ireland; pointed out the diversities of the population, English invaders and Scotch immigrants mixed with the native people; and showed that every form of ecclesiastical endowment, whether in the more costly provision of the English Episcopal church, or the humbler *regium donum* amongst the presbyterians, had only proved detrimental to the progress of genuine religion. The most striking portion of the lecture was where Mr Massie did justice to the Irish people and the Roman catholic priesthood. He affirmed, from his own experience, that any individual who was not identified in the popular mind with the political and religious oppressors of Ireland was perfectly safe in any part of the country, by night or by day; and, in a spirit of perfect fairness, he attributed the great influence of the Roman catholic priesthood to their complete identification with the people, and sympathy in all their joys and sorrows. It was this thorough sympathy which made the Irish feel that they could die for their religious instructors; and it was this which, on the voluntary system, enabled them to yield revenues giving, on an average, to every Roman catholic curate an annual stipend of £100, every priest £200, and every bishop £1000. By acting on the same principles and feelings, protestants might find out the secret of evangelising Ireland. Following out this idea, he insisted very strongly on localising the efforts of societies in districts that would afford the necessary means of self-support. Altogether the lecture was one of a very superior description, and admirably conducive to clearer and correcter views of Ireland and its condition than has usually prevailed amongst the class of people to whom it was addressed.—*Chronicle of Thursday.*

GOVERNESSES' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.—The first anniversary festival held for the purpose of giving publicity to this recently created institution, and for increasing the funds from which hereafter benefits are expected to result to a very useful, and hitherto somewhat neglected, class of persons, took place on Saturday, in the great room of the London tavern, Bishopsgate street. There was a numerous and respectable attendance. At the end of the room seats were provided for the ladies, who attended in considerable numbers, and enlivened the meeting by their presence. The chair was taken at half-past six o'clock, by his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, supported by a very strong staff of stewards, amongst whom were the following noblemen and gentlemen:—Lord Dartmouth, Lord Jermyn, Lord Ashley, Lord Sandon, Lord Cholmondeley, Lord Calthorpe, Lord Teignmouth, the Hon. P. S. Pierrepont, Sir W. Jolliffe, Mr B. B. Cabbell, &c. Lord D. Stewart, Mr C. Dickens, Mr Jerdan, Mr C. Hall, and many other gentlemen connected with literature, were seated at the cross table. Upon the removal of the cloth, "*Non nobis*" having been sung, and the usual loyal, national, and patriotic toasts having been drunk with the honours, the Duke of Cambridge addressed the company on the importance of the institution they were met to support, and urged the necessity of the contributions being liberal towards its funds. Several of the company, and amongst them Lord Sandon, Mr C. Dickens, and Mr B. B. Cabbell, advocated in a forcible manner the claims of the governesses upon the public, and more particularly upon those who were the heads of families. The toast "Success to the Institution" was then drunk with great applause; and shortly after, Mr Laing, the honorary secretary, announced lists of subscriptions amounting in the whole to upwards of £1,000.

THE WILL FORGERIES.

The trial of Barber, Fletcher, Saunders, and Mrs Dorey, charged with the forgery of a will purporting to be the last will and testament of one Anne Slack, was resumed on Wednesday; Mr Erle having stated the case for the prosecution on the previous day. The examination of witnesses occupied Wednesday, and part of Thursday. On Wednesday, Mr James Freshfield, solicitor to the Bank of England, was examined, and related the mode in which the discovery of this forgery was first made.

In November, 1843, the authorities at the Bank suspected that Anne Slack's will had been a forgery; and the Bank solicitor, Mr Freshfield, called on Mr Barber to make inquiries about "Emma Slack." Mr Barber replied that she was a most respectable woman, living in a street leading out of Holborn, and that the matter had occurred in the regular course of business. Mr Freshfield demurred to that statement, as Mr Barber had been making inquiries respecting Anne Slack, in the autumn of 1842, the death of Anne Slack was registered in February, 1843, and the will was proved next March. Mr Freshfield asked who had introduced Emma Slack to Mr Barber? Mr Barber said that he had forgotten. He was arrested; examined at the Mansion-house; and there he brought forward Fletcher as the introducer of Emma Slack. [It was this arrest which led to the disclosure of the other cases, and the whole scheme.]

According to Mr Christmas's deposition, Fletcher did not let that person quite into his confidence, but told him the Anne Slack of Abbot's Langley was not "the real Anne Slack," as she had never lived at Chelsea. Mr Christmas had been fifty years in the Bank, and he had given information to six or seven other persons in relation to unclaimed dividends; only two gave him money—one who gave perhaps £500; and Fletcher, who gave £100 when Anne Slack's money was drawn out.

That sum Fletcher asked for when arrested, and Mr Christmas returned it to him.

Early on Thursday, Mrs Dorey was allowed to withdraw her plea of "Not guilty," and plead "Guilty," which was recorded. Subsequently, the jury intimated that they acquitted Sanders, without hearing any speech on his behalf. In defence of the other three prisoners, counsel were heard at considerable length. For Barber, Mr Wilkins insisted that he had only acted as a professional man: the will was scrutinised by the Bank lawyers without any flaw being detected, and therefore it was not surprising that Mr Barber failed to perceive anything wrong, when it was brought to him by his regular client, Mr Fletcher; Captain Foskitt had said that his sister was about twenty-seven years of age, and Barber knew that the real Anne Slack must at least be forty; and there was not a tittle of evidence to show that he concocted a forgery, or knew Mrs Sanders, except as "Emma Slack." Mr Greaves for Fletcher, and Mr Stone for Mrs Sanders, directed their efforts to discover weak points in the evidence; Mr Greaves contending that no concert to commit a forgery had been proved.

On Friday, Mr Erle replied; Mr Justice Williams summed up, elaborately analysing the evidence; and at a quarter to five the jury retired to deliberate. At ten minutes past six they re-entered the court, and pronounced a verdict of "Guilty," against Barber, Fletcher, Lydia Sanders, and Georgiana Dorey. Barber, who had been in good spirits throughout the day, but had manifested some anxiety during the absence of the jury, now turned deadly pale. He exclaimed, "I am not guilty, my lord, and Mr Fletcher knows it." Fletcher took no notice of this appeal.

The court adjourned till Monday.

At ten o'clock on Monday morning the prisoners were brought up to judgment. Mr Baron Gurney, Mr Justice Williams, and Mr Justice Maule occupied the bench.

The jury having been sworn, William Sanders was arraigned and charged with having personated one Thomas Hunt, with intent to defraud, when the prisoner said he wished to withdraw his plea of not guilty, and have the one of guilty recorded. The plea of guilty was then entered on the record.

After several observations from the prisoners' counsel, their lordships retired for about twenty minutes. On their return, Mr Barber addressed the court in a speech of upwards of an hour's duration. He manifested much self-possession, and spoke with great fluency, firmness, and clearness. The purport of his address was to the effect that he had been the dupe of Fletcher throughout the transaction. In proof of this he went into lengthened details, some of which Fletcher denied to be true. He concluded—"I think, my lords, that I have shown I have been the victim of deception. It is in consequence of the deception practised upon me by Fletcher that I am now standing before your lordships. I assure you, my lords, most solemnly, that throughout this business I have acted merely as a solicitor. At the conclusion of the trial on Friday I solemnly declared what I now solemnly repeat, that I am perfectly innocent of the charge imputed to me, of a guilty knowledge of these transactions, and I conjure Mr Fletcher, as he would have some peace in his declining years, to declare to your lordships whether I have not been made the victim of a deception. I am quite aware that your lordships must act upon the verdict that was pronounced on Friday; but I sincerely hope that your lordships, in passing sentence upon me, will take into consideration the circumstances I have now, very incoherently, submitted to your consideration. I declare that I am innocent of the crime imputed to me. As I expect to answer for the declaration in a future world, I solemnly declare that I have been deceived by this man, Fletcher, who had obtained my confidence."

Fletcher then addressed the Court, throwing the whole blame on the witness Christmas:—"If I had gone as far as he wished me to go, I should have been involved to a far greater extent than I am at present. I declare solemnly that in no one instance have I acted otherwise than upon instructions received from Christmas."

After a few words from William Sanders, Baron Gurney proceeded to pass sentence on the prisoners. Fletcher and Barber were sentenced to be transported for life; Sanders for seven years; and Lydia Sanders and Georgiana Dorey to be imprisoned for two years.

THE SHIP-SINKING CASE.—At the Central Criminal Court, London, on Wednesday, William Read, Esq., shipowner, of Ipswich, was tried on the charge of having incited Captain Simpson to sink the brig Collina about eighty miles from the Texal, with a view to defraud the insurance company to the amount of £1,250. Simpson had pleaded guilty to the act, but threw the responsibility upon Read. After two days' trial the jury acquitted the prisoner. Simpson was then called up for judgment, and sentenced to transportation for the offence.

MURDER AND SENTENCE OF DEATH.—Mary Furley, aged 36, married, was indicted, at the Central Criminal Court, for the wilful murder of her infant son, George Furley. The prisoner had no counsel. She had been an inmate of the workhouse at Bethnal green, where she complained she was separated from her two children. She left the workhouse, and for a while supported herself by shirt-making, at which she could earn only 1½d. each shirt. On the 20th of March she was taken out of the canal, and the body of her younger child was observed to slip from her grasp. With some difficulty she was restored, but the child was quite dead. Her defence was, that on that day she had been robbed of her trifling earnings, and had nothing but destitution before her and

her children. The jury returned a verdict of "Guilty." The usual proclamation having been made, Mr Justice Maule passed sentence of death, telling the prisoner to prepare herself for her fate, as he could hold out no hope of a commutation of sentence to her. [This is the case referred to by Mr Bright in the House of Commons on Friday.]

ILLEGALITY OF ART UNIONS.—The hon. secretaries of the London Art Union have received the following letter:—

"Treasury, April 12th, 1844.

"Sirs—I am commissioned by the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's treasury to acquaint you that an institution called the Art Union of London, having for its object the chance distribution of prizes of works of art, has been brought under the notice of their lordships, and that they are advised that it is illegal; and I am also to acquaint you that the further continuance of the same will render all parties engaged in it liable to prosecution. I am, sirs, your obedient servant,

"W. R. REYNOLDS."

A memorial was immediately forwarded to Sir Robt Peel, with a request for an interview, and the committee were in consequence met on Thursday by Sir George Clerk, Bart., at Downing street. The result of the conference is, that the committee "find it necessary, with a view to the more satisfactory solution of the question at issue, and to place the society on a permanent and assured footing, that the general meeting fixed for Tuesday, the 23rd inst, should be postponed. Many members of the government, and of the legal profession, are subscribers to its funds, which amount to £14,000. Sir George Clerk held out a hope of legislative interference.

AN EXAMPLE TO EMPLOYERS.—Messrs Hitchcock and Co., of St Paul's churchyard—the largest retail drapery house in London, or perhaps in the world—have not only an extensive and well-selected library for the use of the young men of their establishment, but they have lately established a course of lectures in their own premises for their benefit, the lecturers employed being the most distinguished men they can procure in the various departments of literature and science.—*Morning Advertiser.*

CLEANSING THE STREETS.—On Wednesday a deputation from the committee for promoting the greatest attainable cleansing in the public thoroughfares, courts, and alleys of the metropolis, waited upon the right hon. the Lord Mayor, upon the subject of calling a meeting in the city for the furtherance of the purposes for which the noblemen and gentlemen of whom the committee is formed have frequently assembled at the west end of the town. Lord Ranelagh, Sir J. Hamilton, Mr Cochrane, and others, were the gentlemen composing the deputation. Mr Cochrane explained the plan they proposed, which was the employment of some thousand unemployed poor in cleansing the streets, to be paid by a voluntary assessment on the inhabitants. The shopkeepers of Regent street and Oxford street had adopted the proposed plan, and the efficacy of it had far exceeded their expectations. The cleansing of the streets of the city cost, according to the statement of the clerk to the Commissioners of Sewers, about £4,000 a year, and the plan the committee recommended would, he said, with all its advantages, cost no more than from £2,000 to £4,000 more than that sum. The Lord Mayor agreed with the committee that the subject was one which deserved the most attentive consideration, and added that he should with the greatest pleasure do all in his power to remedy the evil which produced such injurious consequences, by joining in the views of the committee, or by any other course likely to be beneficial.

THE OUBREWAY INDIANS.—Two of these interesting strangers, Flying Gull and Tobacco, contested at the swimming baths, High Holborn, in presence of a numerous company, for a first-class silver medal, offered by the British Swimming Society. At a signal the Indians jumped into the bath, and, on a pistol being discharged, they struck out and swam to the other end, a distance of 130 feet, in less than half-a-minute. The Flying Gull was the victor by seven feet. They swam back again to the starting place, where Flying Gull was a second time the victor. Their style of swimming is totally un-European. They lash the waters violently with their arms, like the sails of a windmill, and beat downwards with their feet, blowing with force, and forming grotesque antics. They then dived from one end of the bath to the other with the rapidity of an arrow, and almost as straight a tension of limb. They afterwards entered the lists with Mr Kenworthy, who is accounted one of the best swimmers in England, and who beat them with the greatest ease. The Indians then remade their toilet, and the whole party were shown round the extensive establishment, at which they expressed great wonder. The medal will be presented to Flying Gull in the course of the week.

PROVINCIAL.

THE ELECTIONS.

WOODSTOCK.—In our last number we stated that the Marquis of Blandford, eldest son of the Duke of Marlborough, had suddenly appeared in the field as a candidate for the representation of this borough, in the room of Mr Thesiger, recently appointed solicitor-general. Mr Thesiger, therefore, withdrew, and is at present without a seat in parliament. Another candidate, however, soon appeared, to contest the representation of Woodstock with the Marquis of Blandford, in the person of Mr Humfrey, a chancery barrister. The Marquis of Blandford has just attained his twenty-first year, and it appears, according to the *Standard*, that Mr Thesiger was to represent this pocket borough until the young sprig of aristocracy should come of age. The election excited much interest from various reasons, and, especially, the novelty of an attempt to wrest the representation from the hands of the Duke of Marlborough, whose

influence in the neighbourhood seems to be only equalled by the detestation in which he is held. The nomination took place, on Monday, at the Town hall. Mr Alderman Morris and Mr T. Robinson proposed and seconded the Marquis of Blandford. Dr Bowles, the rector of the parish, between whom and the Duke there has long been an irreconcilable feud, proposed Mr Humfrey. He was there, he said, to use his utmost endeavours to rescue the poor from a state of tyranny and oppression which, on his conscience as a clergyman, he believed to be without parallel in any other parish in this kingdom. He was there to tell the Duke of Marlborough that rank and wealth had their duties as well as their privileges, and that, by grossly neglecting the one he had most justly forfeited the other; unless, indeed, the principles of God's jurisprudence were to be set aside to suit the wishes and to pander to the call of man [loud and repeated cheers]. Mr North seconded the nomination. Lord Blandford then addressed the electors in a brief speech, giving an abstract of his political creed, which was, of course, conservative. Mr Humfrey then followed in a most powerful and telling speech, in which he held up to universal reprobation the conduct of the Duke of Marlborough, and his despotic conduct towards all classes. The following extract will suffice to show the nature of his address:—

Some one had named Mr Smallbones. He had been a flourishing man; had lent money to the duke; had received the duke, his carriages, and his horses, when his grace hardly knew where to go; had given the duke a home; and this benefactor the duke had turned off his estate [cries of "shame!"]. The noble candidate said he was the friend of agriculture. Did he really know any more of agriculture, than that it was a means in his father's hands to raise the rental of his estates? There were cottages on those estates let at from £3 to £4 each, let at a high rent; and on the 25th March, 140 occupants of these cottages had received notices, signed by Mr J. W. Whately, the duke's steward, that they must quit them or pay higher rents [Mr Humfrey here read one of these notices]. One hundred and forty families to be turned into the streets! If the marquis be elected, will he have these notices withdrawn [cheers]? There is next the case of Harris. This poor man's horse fell into a ditch. Hayward, in the duke's name, seized the horse to pound it. The horse went into its stable instead of into the pound. Harris was summoned for rescuing the horse. He was fined one shilling with nineteen and sixpence costs. He could not pay the money. They put him into prison. While there, his creditors came down on him, and sold his property by execution. He came out a beggar, and was now working on the roads [expressions of strong indignation]. And who convicted him? Two magistrates refused to find him guilty, as they thought Hayward exceeded his duty. The duke then became judge in his own cause. Yes; sitting in a dog-kennel, with a glass of ale in his hand, the duke convicted this poor Harris, and sent him to gaol and ruin. Will the Marquis of Blandford undertake that this victim shall be reinstated and his wrongs redressed? Mr Humfrey then proceeded to give details of other cases. In one, a man named Wilkes had picked up a bit of buck's-horn in Blenheim park, and surrendered it, when demanded, at the lodge; information against him was sworn, and he was fined three-pence with 7s. 6d. costs. Another had been fined 15s., because, walking with a neighbour on the road, his companion had picked up a rabbit half eaten by a weasel. Mr Curme, the duke's chaplain, had inflicted this fine upon a man who had never before been in custody [great sensation]. Another case was that of a man named Gray, 90 years of age. He had an allowance of 10s. from the late duke, as being a former keeper; and the present duke had taken away his pension, and he would have died in a workhouse but for the charity of Mr Southam.

Mr Humfrey concluded his speech by saying that he did not mean to go to the poll, as he found the majority of the electors already engaged to his competitor. Unless the Duke greatly altered his conduct, they had that day laid the first stone, upon which at no distant day they would raise a structure to celebrate the triumph of turning out the Duke's nominee. A show of hands was then taken, and the Marquis of Blandford was duly elected to represent the borough of Woodstock.

EXETER.—The re-election of Sir William Follett, on his appointment to the attorney-generalship, has been sharply opposed. The League took the field early, and brought forward General Briggs, a gentleman well known in the neighbourhood, as the free-trade candidate. During the past week this city has been the scene of continued agitation. Numerous free-trade meetings have been held, which have been addressed by Messrs George Thompson, R. R. Moore, A. L. Saul, and other well-known advocates of corn law repeal. The nomination took place on Monday at the Town hall, Mr R. B. Follett attending on behalf of his brother, who was too ill to be present. Sir W. Follett was proposed by Mr Hooper, and seconded by Mr Harris. Mr S. Maunder proposed, and Mr Besley seconded, the nomination of General Briggs. There was a call for Mr Moore, but the sheriff said he did not mean to let any non-electors address the hall. General Briggs, in the course of his address, repeated the circumstances under which he had been induced to present himself as a candidate. He respected the talents of Sir W. Follett and his private worth, but he stood an opponent to his political principles. In conclusion, he stated that in general politics he was a decided liberal, an advocate for the ballot, and for perfect freedom of conscience. He resumed his seat amidst cheering from the free traders and great uproar on the part of the Tories. On the show of hands being taken, the sheriff declared it to be in favour of Sir W. Follett. A poll was then demanded by Mr Maunder on behalf of General Briggs, which commenced on Monday morning. The correspondent of the *Chronicle* writing on that day says, "The polling commenced at eight this morning. Everything proceeds quietly. The Leaguers have done one piece of good service; they have introduced the example of a quiet, orderly, and sober contest. There never has been a hope expressed of success on the present occasion. But the seed must be sown before the harvest can be reaped." The sheriff, immediately after the closing of the poll, declared the numbers to be as follows:—Follett, 1,293; Briggs, 529; majority, 764. This announcement was loudly cheered. Mr R. B. Follett briefly returned thanks for his brother, and General Briggs on his own part. After which, thanks being voted to the sheriff, the meeting quietly dispersed.

HUNTINGDON.—The seat for this borough, vacant by the elevation of the Attorney-general to the chief baronship of the Exchequer, has not been contested; Mr Baring, the late candidate for the city of London, having been returned without opposition. During the past week, however, it was expected that the League would bring forward an opposing candidate. Mr Ackland and other agents of the League have been holding meetings in the borough, and imbuing the minds of the electors with free trade principles. The nomination took place on Monday morning at the town hall; Mr Ackland having previously left the town, and stated that there was no intention to contest the borough. Mr Baring was therefore elected, and addressed the meeting at great length in support of conservative principles, and protection to agriculture.

THE TEN HOURS BILL AGITATION.

Mr Oastler has for the present paused in his career of agitation, having concluded his labours on Saturday evening. During the past week he has attended meetings at Bolton, Manchester, Oldham, Stockport, Blackburn, and Ashton-under-Lyne, at each of which places he has addressed crowded audiences, consisting almost exclusively of the operative class. His speeches improve in moderation, and have less of demagoguism than those of earlier date.

The meeting at Bolton was held in the Temperance hall, where about 2000 were present. The chair was taken by Mr Moor, a surgeon. In the course of his speech Mr Oastler thus spoke of the Premier—

It was recorded that on Sir Robert Peel's leaving the House of Commons, after the defeat on the Factory bill, in company with a friend, he said that it was the Christian feeling of the House which had defeated them. What a church and Queen! A tory government to be defeated by Christian feeling! What a tory government turned infidels, and he to go with them! No, no; the moment he heard that he knew that God had forsaken that ministry—as he found they would prefer infidelity to Christianity to obtain their ends—he must take his stand against them. In taking his leave of the meeting, he would say that it rested with the operatives whether the Ten Hours bill became the law of the land. He would call upon them to make it a religious question, and exhort them to pray that the House of Commons might be filled by more honest and God-fearing men, and then their bill was safe. Little did he think he should have it to say that one of her Majesty's ministers, and a tory, too, should acknowledge that he had been defeated by the Christian feeling of the House of Commons.

Manchester was on Wednesday the scene of agitation, in the Corn exchange of which town from three to four thousand persons were assembled to declare themselves favourable to the Ten Hours bill. No mill-owners were present. The chair was taken by the sub-dean of Manchester, who addressed the meeting; as did also Mr Ferrand, M.P., Mr Walter, Mr Oastler, Mr W. Huntingdon, rector of St John's; Mr W. Johnson, of the collegiate church; Mr Hearn, Roman catholic priest; and Mr J. Scholefield. The *Times* states that there was some "partial interruption" during the proceedings, but that "although the meeting was by far the noisiest which has taken place on the question, the prevalent feeling was not less unanimous in favour of the ten hours bill." Great uproar was occasioned by an attempt, on the part of Mr Walter, to open up the subject of his Nottingham elections; which the audience did not seem to relish. Mr Hearn, of St Patrick's church, in the course of some observations, said he thought the Ten Hours bill would lead to repeal of the corn laws ["hear, hear," and great cheers]. Resolutions were passed in favour of the ten hours bill, and commending the conduct of those noblemen and gentlemen who had supported Lord Ashley's motion in the House of Commons.

A meeting of 3,000 or 4,000 persons, principally working men, was held at Norwich, on Tuesday evening, at which resolutions in favour of a ten hours bill were unanimously passed. By one or two of the speakers dissenting ministers were bitterly and violently denounced for want of sympathy with the working classes.

Mr Oastler and his ten hours' friends held meetings on Thursday evening at Stockport and Oldham, attended by operatives. At Stockport, he complained that Mr Cobden had pointed him out as an "incendiary" exciting the people against machinery; and he retorted by calling Mr Cobden a "vile calumniator;" though he disclaimed hostile feeling! The chair at the Oldham meeting was taken by Joshua Milne, Esq., a large cotton spinner; and several master manufacturers, including Mr Fielden, M.P. for the borough, addressed the meeting. Many clergymen were present, and Mr Fielden complained of the apparent apathy of dissenters on the subject. All the resolutions, as well as the petition, were passed amidst general acclamations of applause; and the proceedings terminated by the meeting approving of a petition to parliament against some oppressive clauses in the masters and servants bill.

On Friday evening the Blackburn theatre was crowded with an attentive audience, anxious to welcome Mr Oastler, and mark their approbation of the Ten Hours bill. Several master manufacturers of the town were present. Mr Dickenson, incumbent of Salesbury, presided; and Mr W. Kenworthy, a master manufacturer, addressed the meeting at great length in favour of the measure. In the course of his observations he said:—

He had been called upon to support a mechanics' institution, which was intended to be formed in that town; but, although he was ready to subscribe towards its establishment, he had great fears for its success. They might rest satisfied that neither mechanics' institutions, philosophical societies, schools, museums, nor gymnasia, could be rendered useful to the working man until he had time to avail himself of the advantages which they were calculated to confer [cheers]. He was glad to be enabled to congratulate them that there was a favourable opinion towards their objects entertained amongst the master manufacturers of Blackburn; but he was sorry he could not speak so favourably of the Preston masters, who, it was understood, were almost frightened into fits when they heard of Lord Ashley's majority. One of them, being a railway director, deemed it necessary to despatch a special train of "long-timers" to wait upon Sir J. Graham; but, as the deputation did not consist of practical men, it might be easily conceived that their report carried with it little weight.

Mr Oastler followed in a speech of greater moderation than usual. The following are one or two extracts of interest:—

He had misunderstood the millowners, and the millowners had misunderstood him. But the millowners were now beginning to think. They had many of those in Blackburn favourable to the Ten Hours bill, and but a very few who still opposed it. To these few, if any happened to be present, he would say, in the words of conciliation and brotherly advice, their opposition was now powerless; the battle was no longer between the Ten Hours bill men and the millowners—the question had been settled in the House of Commons; and it was against that unconstitutional power of the government which at the present moment was endeavouring, by any and every means, to seduce the House of Commons and lead it to contradict itself, that they were now eliciting the wishes and determination of the factory operatives throughout the manufacturing districts. He knew that the government, who were determined, if possible, to thwart them in their efforts to emancipate women and young persons from excessive toil in factories, were employing the factory inspectors to get up garbled statements from the operatives; who, in the presence, and under the aving eye of overlookers and masters, were examined in a manner of all others the most likely to pervert the truth [cheers, and cries of "We know that is the fact"]. The factory inspectors were doing this, but they refused to allow a reporter to be present, lest they should be prevented from putting what colouring they pleased on the communications they received, and sent up to deceive the members of the House of Commons [cheers]. He knew also that in many mills, and he spoke right out on this occasion, for he was prepared to prove all he said, and he hoped it would be made known to the Prime Minister and his colleagues in the cabinet (Sir R. Peel was no doubt watching them, and he was watching him too)—he knew there was an attempt making just now through the factory districts to impose on the House of Commons, and make its members believe that the factory children were well educated. Persons were going round the mills, and inquiring of the factory boys and girls if they could read. The boys and girls would say, "Yes, we can read," and then every one of these was put down as able to read and write. They were never asked if they could write—they were never asked to read; they were simply asked if they could read, and if they only said "Yes, we can read," their names were entered in the column of "Able to read and write" [cries of "Shame" and "It is so"]. He had his eye on several of the conservative members who had gone up from the county of York pledged, over and over again, to this question—who, but for this question, never would have been members of parliament; he would look to Sir R. Peel's dinner parties, and then watch their votes [a laugh].

Other speakers followed, and the usual resolutions were passed.

Saturday afternoon was devoted to a meeting in Charles Street chapel, Ashton-under-Lyne, into which about 1,500 persons were crowded. A mass of nearly 10,000 had assembled in the market place, to greet Mr Oastler; but he told them that, in consequence of exhaustion, produced by his late exertions, he could not address them. The meeting was therefore held within doors. Mr Oastler put his usual questions:—

Are you, or are you not, for the Ten Hours Factory bill? [loud cries, "Yes, yes, yes."] You are; but then, supposing that it should reduce your wages, what then? What say you? [an unanimous shout, "We want the Ten Hours bill."] Then, the business for which he had come was done.

In the course of his speech, which was much varied, Mr Oastler related one or two anecdotes:—

He did not like to allude to private family affairs—nothing would urge him to do so but "a great state necessity." Sir R. Peel had daughters; they might have been factory operatives. He would tell them an anecdote. The late Michael Thomas Sadler was once dining with Sir Robert Peel; and in the course of the afternoon, while walking about in the dining room, his eye was attracted by a picture, which greatly admiring, he asked Sir R. Peel whose portrait it was? "Don't you know?" said Sir Robert, "it is Miss Peel, my eldest daughter." Upon which Mr Sadler clasped his hands and exclaimed, "Oh! thank God she was not brought up a factory girl!" [cheers]. Sir Robert Peel, instead of being thankful for that mercy, was offended with Mr Sadler for thus expressing the benevolent feelings of his heart; and, to that circumstance Mr Sadler himself declared he believed Sir Robert Peel's rude behaviour to him in after life was to be attributed. "For," said Mr Sadler, "whenever I rise in the House of Commons to speak on the factory system, Sir Robert Peel always rises, and haughtily walks out of the house" [cheers].

Lord Brougham had once a daughter, and he (Mr Oastler) once saw her sitting in the carriage with her father, when, after having bamboozled the county of York out of its representation, he was proceeding to receive the freedom of the city of York, which had been voted to him. She was one of the tenderest plants he ever beheld. He never spoke to her; but, although he knew her to be the daughter of one whose principles he hated, she was so lovely, so meek, that he felt his affections drawn to that child, and said, from the ardour of his heart, as they passed over the Ouse Bridge—"God bless you; I wish you had a better father" [cheers]. Now he must be permitted from that place to ask Lord Brougham what would he have thought if that beautiful plant of his own engraving had been doomed to the slavery of the coal pits; and if, after the legislature had relieved her from the labour of an ass, from being yoked under ground, from drawing corves of coal, and creeping on her hands and feet, she had asked parliament to rebid her to that slavery, and thus dishonourise her—what would Lord Brougham, had he been then her father, living upon her toil—what would he have thought of a nobleman who could have demonized himself by presenting that petition, and also take that opportunity of endeavouring to perpetuate the slavery of another portion of the female sex whom the House of Commons had resolved to release from slavery? He was walking in Manchester the other day, when he was met by a gentleman who stopped and said to him, "I am r-a-ther with you, Mr Oastler, on the factory question." "But you know Sir R. Peel has pitted his tenure of office against the Ten Hours bill, and I prefer that bill to Sir R. Peel; what say you to that?" "I am r-a-ther with you there to," he said [cheers]. He would have Sir R. Peel to seriously cogitate upon this matter; that gentleman was one of the most influential Tories of Manchester, his opinion was valued at the very highest rate, and he felt that although his friend only said that he was "r-a-ther with him on that question," his eyes were more eloquent than his tongue, for they were the index of the very recesses of his heart, and meant that he was entirely for the Ten Hours bill—even at the loss of Sir Robert's place [loud cheers]. The agitation of this question would not cease. Although it was necessary for him to go to London, the agitation would be continued by the working men in the factory districts; and if, after all, it was required, he would have a West Riding and a South Lancashire meeting—when they would see whether any Prime Minister would, upon an acknowledged unjust principle already rejected by the House of Commons, attempt to assert his power in defiance of that loud voice from the people, backed as it was, on Sir R. Peel's own showing, by the word of God. He would much rather convince Sir R. Peel than see him driven from office; but, if he was resolved not to listen to the voice of the assembled thousands whom he (Mr Oastler) had addressed during the last fortnight, and those who would raise their voices in the next week or two, out he would go.

Several operatives afterwards addressed the assembly, and one of them again put the question, whether the operatives would have the Ten Hours bill at the risk of a reduction of wages. They replied, "Give us the Ten Hours bill, and let wages find their own level." At each of the numerous gatherings he attended, Mr Oastler was careful to put the same question in a fair and open manner, and invariably received the same response.

THE EDUCATION MOVEMENT.—On the 12th a public meeting was held at the subscription rooms, Stroud, in aid of the fund for the building of congregational schools, when upwards of £600 was announced as promised that night. The foundation-stone of a building, in which Counterslip Sabbath and day schools, Bristol, are to be conducted, was laid last week by Robert Leonard, Esq., in the presence of an exceedingly numerous company, who had assembled to witness the ceremony. In the schoolrooms there will be ample accommodation for five hundred children, with class rooms, &c., complete; and beneath will be very eligible warehouses and counting-houses. The whole, including the purchase of the land, will, it is estimated, cost little short of £3000, which will be furnished by voluntary contributions. On Monday week a day school was opened in connexion with a spacious school, lately built, belonging to Zion chapel, Wakefield, to be conducted on the British system. On the first day nearly 250 scholars were admitted.

THE COLLIERS' STRIKE.—The intelligence received from the coal districts of Durham and Northumberland continues, we regret to say, to be unsatisfactory. The pitmen, as a body, still refuse to return to work, because the masters have determined to resist the terms proposed to them for its resumption; several outrages have been committed, and symptoms are not wanting of a resolution on the part of the colliers to resist the shipment of coals which are now lying in bank. The local authorities have made, and are making, extensive preparations for the maintenance of peace, and for the protection of property and of those willing to work; and government is strengthening the military force, generally extremely small, stationed in these districts. —*Herald*. A Newcastle paper says—"We understand that the coal-owners, after due deliberation, have come to the conclusion that they cannot employ the men under the unreasonable regulations and restrictions contained in the bond drawn up by Mr Roberts, and approved by the delegates."—At Snibston and Whitwick, in this county, the colliers still refuse to work without the advance and the conditions they propose are conceded to by the masters. This there is no probability of the masters' doing at present, and it is said that fresh hands will be speedily introduced into the pits. At Bagworth, we understand, they continue to work as usual. —*Leicester Mercury*. The *Nottingham Review* says—"We understand there has been a large meeting of the most influential coal masters in the counties of Derby, Nottingham, and Leicester, with those connected with the North Midland railway, at which it was determined not to employ any colliers in the union, and to put it down previous to entertaining the question of any regulation in wages or prices of coals."

A MAN KILLED BY A PIG.—On Friday afternoon, a young man named Fisher, at a flour-mill near Gloucester, attempted to remove a pig out of a sty, when the pig flew at him, and gave him a severe bite on the thigh, dividing the femoral artery. The blood flowed profusely, and before medical assistance arrived, he had bled to death.

IRELAND.

THE STATE PROSECUTIONS.

In the Dublin court of Queen's Bench, on Thursday, on the application of Mr Whiteside, with the assent of the Attorney-general, it was arranged that the traversers' motion for a new trial should stand for Monday. It is said that the notices for a new trial "have been so framed as to differ from each other in some trifling respect, with a view to enable counsel to apply to the Court on separate specific grounds for a new trial on the part of each of the traversers." The motion for a new trial is expected to occupy the entire of this week. Each of the traversers will insist on his right to be heard by counsel; and, in the event of the motion being refused, a similar course will be pursued in the other motions for arrest of judgment, &c., &c. Mr Whiteside, whose speech for Mr Duffy made such a sensation last term, will open on Monday for Mr O'Connell. Mr Hatchell will follow for Mr Ray. Mr Moore for Mr Tierney. Mr M'Donough for Mr Barrett. Mr Fitzgibbon for Dr Gray. Mr O'Hagan for Mr Duffy. Sir Coleman O'Loghlen for Mr J. O'Connell. Mr Close for Mr Steele. It appears, however, that another delay has occurred, and that at the instance of the Attorney-general himself. The case was not likely to come on until this morning. The cause of this delay is briefly this. The traversers and their solicitors had filed affidavits stating that they believe the omission of names from the jury list to have been a fraud, and consequently leaving to the Crown the onus of accounting for the suppression of the sixty special jurors. The Attorney-general served notices on the clerks of the peace, and their deputies and clerks, to put in answering affidavits on this point, by twelve o'clock on Friday; but this not having been complied with, the Crown counsel had no alternative but to apply for a postponement of the motion for a new trial, and in consequence the notice of motion for Monday was discharged, the Attorney-general to give twenty-four hours' notice when he is ready to proceed.

The correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* says:—"I have heard a rumour, which is very generally credited, to the effect that the clerks of the peace have refused to swear any affidavits in reply to the affidavits on the part of the traversers, as to the missing names from the jury panel."

THE REFUGEE ASSOCIATION.—An adjourned meeting was held on Wednesday, when Mr O'Connell spoke again on the subject of the Irish Registration bill. Two addresses to him from Germany were read, and loudly applauded. Two hundred pounds were received from America, where the news of

O'Connell's conviction has excited a wondrous sensation. It is said the repeal funds are at present at the lowest ebb, the law costs having drained them to a vast amount. The rent for the week was £620.

THE SPY SYSTEM.—On Monday last a letter was despatched from the castle, dismissing Mr Gray, a stipendiary magistrate in the county of Tipperary. This dismissal was the result of an inquiry, ordered by the government, which has been in progress for some days, before Mr Martley, Q.C., respecting a charge brought against some policemen in that county, of causing seditious ballads to be printed. These policemen were stationed in the district where Mr Gray resided, and that gentleman had been summoned up to Dublin to attend the investigation. At the late assizes of Clonmel the printer employed by the police, named Moran, was to have been tried for sedition, but the Crown abandoned the prosecution. The poor man was nevertheless detained in custody until he could procure bail. Mr Doheny, as his counsel, brought the matter before the court, and denounced the conduct of the police, who, as he stated, go about dressed as ballad-singers. They go to an unfortunate printer, give him a copy of a song to print, and, when they thus entrap him, they seize upon and drag him, as a felon, to prison. "This dismissal," says the *Chronicle*, "is to be followed up by another government inquiry into the police spy system in the King's county, where a police officer and some subordinates are charged with a conspiracy to get up ribbon prosecutions by the foulest and basest means."

THE LAND COMMISSION.—It is authoritatively stated to be the intention of the land commission to lay before parliament, during the present session, a short report of its inquiries so far as they have gone; and that on the return of its members to Dublin steps will be taken for preparing this anxiously looked-for document.

THE STIPENDIARY MAGISTRACY.—Mr Hugh Gray, one of Lord Fortescue's latest recipients of government bounty, and who was reduced, but subsequently reappointed, by the present Executive, has had his name struck off the roll of stipendiary magistrates.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

Mr O'Connell has subscribed £100 towards a repeal hall in Cork.

A limited reduction in the royal stud, comprising some of her Majesty's valuable saddle-horses, which, it is said, are to be sold, is likely to take place.

A considerable quantity of foreign wheat has been relieved from bond at Gloucester, on the payment of 16s. per quarter duty.

The purchase of the Osborne estate, on the Isle of Wight, as a marine residence for her Majesty, has been completed.

The *Hull Rockingham*, copyright, types, presses and all, was put up for sale the other day, and the reserved bid, £300, not being offered, was taken in.

In America a free negro may be seized on suspicion of slavery, and if he cannot pay the expense of proving himself free, and the gaol fee besides, he may be sold by auction to defray them!

A poem about King Alfred by a Mr Fitchett, who died in 1838, has just been published in six large octavo volumes. It contains 131,238 lines, beating the *Iliad* by 115,545 lines, the *Æneid* by 121,342, and "Paradise Lost" by 120,673!

EXTREMES MEET.—Dr Pusey, the head of the Oxford tractarians, is grandson of the radical Earl of Radnor; and Dr Hook, also a leader of the high church party, is nephew of the late volatile Theodore Hook.

Mr Fitzroy Kelly, who appeared for the defendant in a special jury case this week, received for his trouble 340 guineas. The trial lasted about six hours.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

It is said to be the intention of government to form a large encampment on the Curragh of Kildare in the month of June. It will consist of cavalry, infantry, and artillery.—*Dublin Evening Mail*.

By a return furnished by Mr Harvey, the commissioner of the city of London police, it appears that in the leading thoroughfares in the city there are 1237 yards of wood pavement, and that in a given period no fewer than 297 accidents occurred from horses falling, while, during the same days, upon 4,22 yards of stone pavement, only fifty-one horses fell.

AMERICAN MERCY.—Jonathan's heart of dollars has somewhat relented. The white man sentenced to be hanged in Louisiana for riding the quadron slave in attempt to escape from bondage, is not, it seems, to be executed. He is only to be publicly whipped. Hence the American flag may retain its significant stripes.—*Punch*.

The new Chief Baron of the Exchequer, Sir Frederick Pollock, is in his sixty-second year. His Lordship is the brother of Mr Commissioner Pollock, of the Insolvent Debtors' Court, and of General Pollock. He was called to the bar in 1807, and after 20 years' practice was appointed a King's counsel.

One day last week an epistle, bearing the following curious and not inappropriate address, passed through the Post-office, Carnarvon:—

Be patient, while this rhyme you scan,
And then, I hope you will, "I post-man,"
Convey it safe, to Ann White side,
Who in "Carnarvon" doth reside.
Her thanks you'll get—I'm sure you will—
While I give mine to "Rowland Hill."

YANKEE JOKE.—"I wish you would give me that gold ring on your finger," said a lady to a country girl, "for it resembles the duration of my love for you, it is as no end." "Excuse me, Sir," replied she, "I choose to keep it, for it is equally emblematic of my love for you, it has no beginning."

THE INCOME TAX.—The man with an income of £150 earned by labour, and the fundholder enjoying that income, and possessing property besides of that yearly value, are taxed alike. The £5,356,000 therefore, the produce of the tax, is raised in a manner at once unjust and partial, the greater number of incomes, and the general mass of property, being exempt.

The daily rations of Jack, the male elephant, kept in the garden of the Zoological society of London, and now about 30 years old, are a truss and-a-half of hay, 42lbs of Swedish turnips, a mash consisting of 3lbs of boiled rice, a bushel of chaff, and half a bushel of bran, 10lbs of sea biscuit, a bundle of straw for his bed, weighing about 46lbs, which he usually eats by the morning, and thirty-six pails of water.

Eight hundred and eighty persons, 575 of whom are clergymen, have signed a protest against tractarianism.

RAILWAYS.—A return, just obtained by the hon. and gallant member for Lincoln, Colonel W. Sibthorp, of all monies to be raised under the sanction of the acts whereby railroad companies have been incorporated, between the 1st of January, 1826, and the 1st of January, 1844, gives some interesting particulars, showing the immense resources of the country, as regards the obtaining of vast capital for public purposes. Taking some of the more important lines of railroad established within the last ten years, we find the following results are obtained:—

The gross total sum to be raised, according to acts of parliament, by the Arbroath and Forfar Railway Company, amounted to £160,000; the Birmingham and Derby Junction Railway Company was altogether empowered to raise £1,200,000; the Birmingham and Gloucester, £1,413,741; the Bristol and Exeter, £2,000,000; the Bristol and Gloucestershire, £876,000; the Whitstable and Canterbury (a tram-road), £80,000; the Cheltenham and Great Western, £2,000,000; the Chester and Birkenhead, 499,999; the Chester and Crewe, £458,333; the Clarence, £799,645; the Dublin and Drogheda, £600,000; the Eastern Counties, £2,533,333; the Edinburgh and Glasgow, £1,600,000; the Glasgow, Paisley, and Ayr, £1,249,900; the Leinster and Munster, £1,065,000; the Great North of England, £1,730,000; the Great Western, £4,999,999; the Liverpool and Manchester, £1,832,375; the Birmingham and London, £5,500,000; the Blackwall, £1,066,000; the Brighton and London, £2,820,000; the Croydon, altogether, £921,333 (the original estimate of Mr Gibbs, the engineer, having been only £140,000); the Greenwich, £993,333 (or nearly double the original capital of £533,000); the South Western, £2,540,000; the Leeds and Manchester, £3,429,000; the Manchester and Birmingham, £2,800,000; the Grand Junction, £800,000; the Midland Counties, £1,866,333; the Newcastle and Carlisle, £1,050,000; the Northern and Eastern, £1,631,288; the North Midland, £3,400,000; the South Eastern and Dover, £3,630,277; the Sheffield and Manchester, £1,533,000; and the York and North Midland, £681,666. The above are only a fraction of the whole, but even these will serve to prove the astonishing monetary power and resources of the British empire. It should be stated that the sums in question include both the capital in joint stock and the amounts raised by loan or mortgage. In some instances (and the Greenwich and Croydon lines may be named amongst others) the original estimates have been enormously exceeded; the latter insignificant line, which is only 10½ miles in length, having already cost the proprietors nearly a million sterling (or £100,000 per mile), whereas the originally proposed capital amounted to £140,000.

TRINIDAD.—CRIME.—At the approaching session of the supreme court in this island there is no case for trial.—*Berice Gazette*.

Half of the tendencies of our nature pass into habits only from the facilities which encourage their development. We will venture to say, that there is not a title of the quarrels in the world that there used to be when all men were accustomed to wear arms.—*Edinburgh Review*.

Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy, the Hindoo philanthropist, has, within the last ten years, given £154,000 sterling for the promotion of education, hospitals, and various public works.

INDIAN OXEN.—Five of these extraordinary beasts, bred by Lord Combermere, have just arrived in London by the Birmingham railway. It is stated by competent judges that they are the finest both in quality and in form that have as yet been seen in this country. They have been consigned to her Majesty's purveyor, Mr Giblett, of Bond street.

Measures are to be taken for the immediate establishment of the agricultural college in Wiltshire, for which purpose a public meeting of the friends and supporters of the proposed plan has been called for Monday next, the 22nd inst. Earl Bathurst has consented to preside on the occasion.—*Standard*.

BIRTHS.

April 12, at their residence, Mossford lodge, Great Ilford, Essex, the wife of Mr M. A. GATHERCOLE, of a daughter.

April 12, at Croydon, the wife of Mr JOHN YOUNG, of Albion chapel, of a son.

April 13, at Warminster, the wife of Mr W. J. STRUT, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

April 16, at St Martin's Square chapel, Chichester, by the pastor, Mr Joseph Benson, A.M., Mr JAMES COOPER, of West Wittering, to Miss ANNE SAUNDERS, of Chichester.

April 16, at Bethel chapel, Maidstone, by Mr W. Hancock, THOMAS WILLIAM WATTS, to HESTER FRYER, both of Maidstone.

April 16, at the baptist chapel, Harston, near Cambridge, Mr F. W. GOTCH, M.A., philosophical tutor of Stepney college, to Miss SARAH HANNAH, second daughter of Ebenezer FOSTER, Esq., of Anstey hall.

April 16, at Silver Street chapel, Worcester, by the pastor, Mr Crowe, Mr JOHN EDMUNDS, house agent, to Mrs ELIZABETH THOMAS, both of this city.

April 17, at the independent chapel, Milton, Mr MARTIN TOWN, to SARAH NICHOLLS, both of Sittingbourne.

April 17, at Mulberry Gardens chapel, Pell street, by Mr J. Clayton, of the Poultry chapel, Mr PHIPPS, to Mrs FELDSTE, of the Commercial road.

April 17, at the registrar's office, Greenwich, Mr G. MOASE, pastor of the independent church, Barrington, Cambridgeshire, to Miss ELIZ. PORTER, Deptford.

April 18, at Camberwell, by Dr Steane, Mr JOHN DAWFONE, jun., of Peckham, to ELIZABETH JANE, second daughter of Mr John RABBETH, of the Park road, Old Kent road.

April 20, at the independent chapel, Christchurch, Hants, by Mr D. Gunn, pastor, Mr JOSEPH CRUTCHER, of Bockhampton, to Miss ELIZABETH PROUDLEY, of the parish of Christchurch.

DEATHS.

April 12, at Fountain Cottage, Ipswich, the residence of J. T. Primrose, Esq., SUSANNAH WILKINSON, eldest daughter of the late S. Crisp, Esq., of Frostden, Suffolk, and wife of Mr W. F. BUCK, of Burton-upon-Trent.

April 13, at the residence of her mother in Dorking, Surrey, SARAH, the eldest daughter of the late Mr John WHITEHOUSE, minister of the gospel, of that place, aged 26 years. Her removal, like that of her late beloved father, has thrown a feeling of gloom over the religious circle of friends at Dorking.

April 14, aged 76, JAMES WILSON, Esq., the beloved deacon of the church in Phillips street, Kingsland road. His end was most emphatically peace.

April 14, aged 24, Miss ELIZA GATHERGOOD, the beloved daughter of Mrs Gathergood, Buckingham terrace, Lynn. Her end was perfect peace.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, April 19.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

Bethesda chapel, Kingston-upon-Hull.
The Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Nantwich, Cheshire.
The Methodist chapel, Grosvenor place, Walworth, Surrey.

BANKRUPTS.

ALLINSON, RICHARD, Whitehaven, Cumberland, ironmonger, April 26, June 10: solicitors, Mr Stubbs, 15, Farnival's inn, London: Messrs W. and H. Perry, Whitehaven; and Mr Ingle-dew, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

ATKINS, JOHN, Aston, Warwickshire, beer-house keeper, April 27, May 25: solicitors, Mr E. A. Chaplin, Gray's inn, London, and Mr A. Harrison, Birmingham.

BATTE, JOHN, 8, Courtney terrace, Kingsland, linen draper, May 2, 31: solicitor, Mr G. R. Dodd, New Broad street.

CARPENTER, JOHN, Rothwell, Northamptonshire, surgeon, April 30, May 30: solicitor, Mr Cattlin, Ely place, London.

DIMENT, JAMES, and GRIMES, JOHN, Bristol, plasterers, April 26, June 7: solicitors, Messrs Peters and Abbott, Bristol.

DOWLE, JAMES, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, wine merchant, April 26, June 6: solicitors, Messrs W. and C. Bevan, Bristol.

LORD, JOHN BUCKLEY, and COGHAN, MICHAEL, now or late of Meltham, Yorkshire, woolen cloth manufacturers, April 30, May 23: solicitors, Messrs Sudlow and Co., 20, Chancery lane, London: Messrs Floyd and Booth, Huddersfield; and Mr C. Naylor, Leeds.

MALLALIEU, JAMES, Sowerby, Yorkshire, cotton spinner, May 3, 31: solicitors, Messrs Gregory and Co., Bedford row, London, and Mr Wavell, Halifax.

PAYNE, WILLIAM, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, builder, April 26, June 4: solicitors, Messrs Crosby and Compton, 3, Church court, Old Jewry, London, and Mr G. W. Hodge, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

ROTHERY, GEORGE, Wakefield, currier, May 6, 24: solicitor, Mr T. Dean, Batley.

SLACK, JAMES, Hulme, Lancashire, filtering machine manufacturer, April 30, May 22: solicitors, Mr H. Nethersole, 15, Essex street, Strand, London, and Mr M. Foster, Manchester.

SYER, JAMES JOSEPH IRON, 29, Bridge street, Blackfriars, City, undertaker, April 30, May 21: solicitor, Mr Melton, Warwick court, Gray's inn.

TODD, JOSEPH, Hartfield, Sussex, dealer, April 30, May 21: solicitors, Messrs Elmslie and Preston, Moorgate street, London.
WALLER, MATTHEW, Percy street, Tottenham Court road, and Birmingham, patent electro plater, May 3, June 1: solicitors, Messrs Buchanan and Grainger, 8, Basinghall street, City.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

ROBERTSON, JAMES, Brechin, vintner, April 27, May 20.

DIVIDENDS.

J. M. Hervey, Thames Foundry, Brick lane, Old street, iron founder; second div. of 1s. in the pound, April 24, and two following Wednesdays—T. Redshaw, Bourn, Lincolnshire, saddler; first div. of 4s. in the pound, any Tuesday—F. Peters, Manchester, wine merchant; first div. of 1s. 6d. in the pound, April 23, and every following Tuesday—W. Read, King street, Covent garden, engraver; first div. of 2s. in the pound, April 24, or any following Wednesday—A. Jopp, Cornhill, ship broker; first div. of 2s. in the pound, any Saturday—E. Mackintosh, Haymarket, army accoutrement maker; final div. of 4½d. in the pound, any Saturday—G. H. Bush, Edgeware road, upholsterer; first div. of 3s. 4d. in the pound, any Saturday—R. Mitchell, Leicester, hosier; first div. of 18s. in the pound, any Thursday—S. W. Saffell, Birmingham, druggist; first div. of 7½d. in the pound, any Thursday—J. O. Palmer, Liverpool; second div. of 5d. in the pound, any Wednesday—J. Taylor, Middlesbrough, Yorkshire, coal fitter; fourth div. of 2s. 6d. in the pound, any Saturday—H. Featherstonhaugh, late of Bishopwearmouth, coal fitter; first and final div. of 2s. 7½d. in the pound, any Saturday—W. Henderson, Monkwearmouth shore, Durham, tinner; first and final div. of 2½d. in the pound, any Saturday—W. F. Mills, Hart street, Mark lane, and 120, High Holborn, merchant; first div. of 7s. 6d. in the pound, April 24, and two following Wednesdays.

Tuesday, April 23rd.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

Keld chapel, Keld, Yorkshire.

Tabernacle, Tenby, Pembrokeshire.

BANKRUPTS.

AUSTIN, WILLIAM, Bell street, Edgeware road, builder, May 3, June 7: solicitor, Mr Harpur, Kennington cross.

BATTY, ABRAHAM, now or late of Birkenhead, Yorkshire, innkeeper, May 6, and 31: solicitors, Messrs Bell and Co., Bow churchyard, London, and Mr Blackburn, Leeds.

BROWN, WILLIAM, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, auctioneer, May 3, June 1: solicitors, Messrs Watson and Sons, 12, Bouverie street, Fleet street, City.

BROTHERS, SAMUEL, Newcastle-under-Lyne, currier, May 1, June 7: solicitors, Mr T. Harding, Newcastle, and Mr John Smith, Birmingham.

CHANNELL, HARRY, Southampton, coal merchant, April 26, May 31: solicitors, Mr Edward Coxwell, Southampton, and Mr James Sowton, Great James street, Bedford row.

GRAHAM, EDWARD, 21, Dover street, Piccadilly, singing master, May 3, and 31: solicitor, Mr Richard Lonsdale, Temple chambers, Fleet street.

WARD, FREDERICK HEIGHINGTON, 3, Arbour terrace, Commercial road, tallow chandler, May 1, June 5: solicitor, Mr Nias, Copthall court.

JACKSON, RICHARD, Leeds, machine maker, May 4 and 25: solicitors, Mr Fildes, Temple, London, and Messrs Barr and Co., Leeds.

KING, JAMES BAGSTER, Newgate street, City, and of Hampstead, merchant, May 7, June 12: solicitor, Mr Cox, Pinner's hall, Broad street.

LLOYD, WILLIAM, Liverpool, wine merchant, May 3, 21: solicitors, Messrs Holme and Co., New Inn, London, and Mr Booker, Liverpool.

READ, WILLIAM, and PAGE, ENOS, Ipswich, Suffolk, ship builders, April 30, June 4: solicitor, Mr Teague, Crown court, Cornhill.

SMERTON, GEORGE, Stratford, Essex, horse dealer, May 1, June 5: solicitors, Messrs Buchanan and Grainger, Basinghall street.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

BLACK, GEORGE, Kilmarnock, grain merchant, April 29, May 17.

BELL, JAMES, Dalreoch, Perthshire, innkeeper, April 26, May 17.

CAMPBELL and FRANK, Glasgow, provision merchants, April 30, May 21.

ROSS, GEORGE, Kilmarnock, calico printer, April 30, May 25.

SCOTT, J. G., and Co., Glasgow and Manchester, mousseline de laine printers, April 29, May 30.

DIVIDENDS.

Kenneth Francis Hislop Mackenzie, of King's Arms yard, Coleman street, City, merchant; third dividend of 4s. 5d. in the pound, any Wednesday.—Richard Blunden, Alton, Hampshire;

first dividend of 4s. 6d. in the pound, any Wednesday.—George Bishop, St Mary Axe, City, merchant; first dividend of 1s. in the pound, April 24, and two following Wednesdays.—Jose Luis Fernandez, Wakefield, corn miller, second dividend of 2s. 6d. in the pound, any Tuesday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

The funds have fallen in price since our last; but are now again stationary. A good deal of private business has been done, but not much speculation.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
2 per cent. Consols	100	100	100	99½	99½	99½
Ditto for Account	100	100	100	99½	99½	99½
3 per cent. Reduced	99	99	99	98½	98½	98½
3½ per cent. Reduced	103	103½	103½	102½	102½	102½
New 3½ per cent.	103½	103½	103½	103	103	103
Long Annuities	12½	12½	—	12½	12½	12½
Bank Stock	—	199	198	196	—	—
India Stock	99½	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills	76pm	75pm	74pm	74pm	73pm	73pm
India Bonds	—	—	—	93	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	—	Mexican	35
Belgian	104½	Peruvian	31
Brazilian	80½	Portuguese 5 per cent	79
Buenos Ayres	38	Ditto 3 per cent	—
Columbian	15	Russian	117½
Danish	89	Spanish Active	25½
Dutch 2½ per cent	60½	Ditto Passive	64
Ditto 5 per cent	100½	Ditto Deferred	15½

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	61	London and Brighton	43½
Birmingham & Gloucester	91	London & Croydon Trunk	17½
Blackwall	6	London and Greenwich	5
Bristol and Exeter	74	Ditto New	—
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	—	Manchester & Birm.	52
Eastern Counties	13	Manchester and Leeds	112
Edinburgh and Glasgow	66	Midland Counties	90
Great North of England	100	Ditto Quarter Shares	23
Great Western	110	North Midland	91
Ditto Half	70½	Ditto New	45
Ditto Fifth	194	South Eastern and Dover	36
London and Birmingham	227	South Western	85
Ditto Quarter Shares	28½	Ditto New	—

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, April 22.

There was a fair supply of wheat to-day from the near counties; the finest runs were selected out at last week's currency, but every other description was rather lower. For free foreign there was a retail steady demand, at about last week's prices, but there was no disposition to get into stock.

Barley has been very dull, the malting season being nearly over; all descriptions are 1s. to 2s. per quarter lower, with scarcely anything doing in the finer sorts.

Oats have continued to meet a fair home consumption, without decline in prices; but the business done has not been extensive.

Beans and peas maintain prices.

Wheat, Red New	46 to 54	Malt, Ordinary	42 to 52
Fine	54 to 58	Pale	54 to 58
White	48 to 56	Rye	34 to 37
Fine	56 to 64	Peas, Hog	28 to 30
Flour, per sack	39 to 50	Maple	29 to 31
Barley	25 to 30	Boilers	32 to 36
Malting	32 to 36	Beans, Ticks	25 to 30
Beans, Pigeon	30 to 32	Wheat	18s. 0d.
Harrow	27 to 28	Barley	5 0
Oats, Feed	18 to 21	Oats	6 0
Fine	22 to 23	Rye	9 6
Poland	20 to 23	Beans	10 6
Potato	20 to 23	Peas	10 6

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR APRIL 19.

Wheat	55s. 1d.	Wheat	5s. 11d.
Barley	33 1	Barley	33 1
Oats	20 1	Oats	20 0
Rye	32 4	Rye	33 6
Beans	31 2	Beans	31 1
Peas	32 5	Peas	31 6

SEEDS.

There was a country speculative demand for red clover seed at the close of last week, which rather enhanced prices; but to-day it appeared to subside, and the season seems closing. White seed and trefoil are offered on rather lower terms. Canary seed must be quoted 2s. lower, but in prices of other articles we have no change to notice.

Linseed	per qr	Clover	per cwt.
English, sowing	50s. to 60s.	English, red	56s. to 70
Baltic, ditto	—	Ditto, white	86 to 116
Ditto, crushing	40 to 42	Flemish, pale	48 to 52
Medit. & Odessa	40 to 43	Ditto, fine	56 to 101
Hempseed, small	35 to 38	New Hamb., red	43 to 50
Large	—	Ditto, fine	56 to 101
Canary, new	51 to 52	Old Hamb., red	38 to 46
Extra	54 to —	Ditto, fine	56 to 110
Caraway, old	—	French, red	46 to 52
New	57 to 63	Ditto, white	—
Ryegrass, English	—	Coriander	15 to 20
Scotch	—	Old	—
Mustard	per bushel	Rapeseed	per last
Brown, new	10 to 16	English, new	25s. to 26s.
White	8 to 10	Linseed cakes	—
Trefoil	23 to 32	English	9s. 10s. to 10s. 0s.
Old	12 to 26	Foreign	5s. to 6s. 10s.
Tares, new	4 to 5	Rapeseed cakes	5s. 5s. to 5s. 10s.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, April 22.

There has been very little doing in Irish butter, and we cannot quote prices accurately. Foreign butter lower in price. Friesland, 80s. to 84s.; Kiel, 76s. to 82s.; Holland, 66s. to 76s. per cwt. Of bacon liberal supplies have been received, and a consequent depression in the demand. With less doing, prices for singed sides have ruled from 42s. to 47s. on board and landed, according to quality and weight. Bale and tierce middles not so much sought after, and scarcely so good in price. Lard in slow sale. Bladders at 56s. to 60s.; kegs, 46s. to 51s. Hams in fair request, as in quality, &c., at from 50s. to 66s. per cwt.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, April 22.

The hop market continues very quiet, and prices remain about the same. Holders do not press sales.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, April 22.

Notwithstanding the market to-day was but moderately supplied with beasts, there was a very sluggish demand for all kinds of beasts. The prime Scots, homebreds, runts, &c., were mostly disposed of at prices about equal to those obtained on Monday last; but the value of most other descriptions had a downward tendency. The supply of sheep was by no means large, but fully equal to meet the wants of the trade. Prime old downs sold at last week's prices, but the value of all other kinds of sheep was barely supported. The veal trade was steady. Pigs were in good supply, and heavy demand, at late rates.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef	2s. 4d. to 4s. 0d.	Veal	3s. 4d. to 4s. 6d.
Mutton	2 8 to 4 4	Pork	3 0 to 4 4
Lamb	5 0 to 6 4		

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts	Sheep	Calves	Pigs
Friday 667	7,700	192	263
Monday 2,642	20,730	193	381

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, April 22.

Inferior Beef 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d.	Inf. Mutton 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d.
Middling do 3 6 to 3 8	Mid. ditto 2 10 to 3 2
Prime large 3 10 to 3 0	Prime ditto 3 4 to 3 8
Prime small 3 2 to 3 4	Veal 3 4 to 4 6
Large Pork 3 0 to 3 6	Small Pork 3 8 to 4 2
Lambs, 4s. 10d. to 6s. 4d.	

POTATOES, BOROUGH, Monday, April 22.

The supply during the past week, and those left of former arrivals, were more than sufficient for the demand. Several cargoes have been stored, some inferior samples not saleable in the present market, and the holders of others wanted higher prices. York reds per ton 75s. to 90s. Guernsey 65s. to 70s. Devon do 70 to 80 Kent and Essex do 50 to 60 Scotch do — — — — — Wisbeach 75 to 80

WOOL.

Although the transactions have been limited this week, there has been rather more inquiry, and a greater disposition to purchase than for the last few weeks. In short wools we do not quote any alteration.

COTTON.

The demand has been very limited throughout the week, and prices are fully 1d. per lb. lower for the better, 1d. for the inferior qualities of American, and 1d. per lb. for most other kinds. The above decline was submitted to in the early part of the week, and has not since been recovered, although the market has latterly been rather more steady. Speculators have taken 1,200 American, and exporters 700 American and 1.0 Madras; and the entire transactions consist of 21,060 bales.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, April 20.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Coarse Meadow	55s. to 65s.	New Clover Hay	65s. to 105s.
New ditto	—	Old ditto	—
Useful Old ditto	66 to 70	Oat Straw	26 to 28
Fine Upland ditto	72 to 76	Wheat Straw	28 to 30

COAL EXCHANGE, April 22.

Stewart's, 22s. 0d.; Hetton's, 22s. 0d.; Braddyll's Hetton's, 22s. 6d. Ships arrived this week, 199.

GROCERIES, TUESDAY, APRIL 23.

TEA.—Common Congou is selling at 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 1d. per lb. The market has a firm appearance. There are not any public sales advertised.

COFFEE.—500 bags Ceylon sold in auction at rather lower rates. Good ordinary fetched 59s. to 60s.; middling grey Demerara sort, 85s. to 86s. 6d.; fine ordinary, 78s. to 80s. per cwt.

SUGAR.—The trade bought about 400 hhds and tierces. In refined goods there was not much doing. Standard lumps selling 78s. to 78s. 6d.; brown lumps 77s. to 77s. 6d. per cwt. 5000 boxes Mauritius have been sold in auction at former rates. 1890 boxes Havannah, offered in auction, were bought in at 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt above the market prices.

TALLOW.—St Petersburg yellow candle is selling at 40s. 6d. per cwt on the spot, and is offered at 42s. per cwt for delivery in the last three months.

Advertisements.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.

AT a Numerous MEETING of the Inhabitants of WICK and PULTENEY TOWN, called by Public Advertisement, held within the Temperance hall there, the Nineteenth Day of April, 1844,

WILLIAM CAMPBELL, Esq., one of the Bailies of Wick, was unanimously called to the Chair.

It was moved by Mr PETER MERCER, preacher, United Secession church, and seconded by Mr GEORGE CORMACK, Fish-curer, Pulteney town—

"That, in the opinion of this meeting, all civil establishments of religion are in their nature unscriptural, unnecessary, and unjust; and that, in their tendency, they are injurious to the interests of true religion, and hurtful to the well-being of Christianity."

Moved by Mr JAMES SPENCE, preacher, congregational church, and seconded by Treasurer COMER—

"That it is the duty of all who hold these sentiments regarding civil establishments of Christianity to use every lawful and constitutional means of asserting and propagating their principles."

Moved by Mr JOHN MACKIE, of the *John O'Groat Journal*, and seconded by Councillor MORRAT—

"That, in these convictions, this meeting express their cordial approval of the Convention to be held in London, for the purpose of concerting measures towards the speedy and total separation of Church and State."

Moved by Dean of Guild GEDES, and seconded by Mr J. J. HARPER, joiner—

"That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Secretary of the Anti-state-church Conference, and inserted in the *Nonconformist* and *John O'Groat Journal* newspapers."

Which resolutions, being submitted to the meeting, were carried by acclamation.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL, Preses.

Thereafter it was moved by Mr GEORGE AULD, apothecary, and unanimously agreed to—

"That the best thanks of this meeting are due to Bailie Campbell for his conduct in the chair."

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BIBLE TRANSLATION SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above Society will be held **THIS EVENING**, at **NEW PARK STREET CHAPEL, SOUTHWARK**. The Chair will be taken by **J. L. PHILLIPS, Esq.**, of Melksham, at Half-past Six o'clock.

EDWARD STEANE, D.D., Secretary.
JOSEPH H. ALLEN, Treasurer.

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL AMONG THE JEWS.

THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held on **FRIDAY EVENING NEXT**, April 26, at **FREEMASONS' HALL**, Great Queen street. Chair to be taken at Six o'clock.

Tickets may be had from Eleven until Three o'clock, at the Office, No. 1, Crescent place, Blackfriars; of Messrs Nisbet, 21, Berners street; and of Messrs Aylott and Jones, 8, Paternoster row.

The **ANNUAL SERMON** will be preached on **MONDAY EVENING**, April 29, in the **WEIGH-HOUSE CHAPEL**, Fish-street hill, by the **Rev. GEORGE SMITH**, of Trinity Chapel, Poplar. Service to commence at Half-past Six.

E. HENDERSON, } Secretaries.
J. HAMILTON, }

ANNIVERSARY OF THE WESLEYAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, 1844.

THE COMMITTEE of this Society respectfully invite the attention of their Friends in Town and Country, and of the Christian Public generally, to the following Announcements connected with the ensuing Anniversary in London.

They have the pleasure to state, that
The **Rev. JOHN SCOTT**, President of the Wesleyan Conference,
The **Rev. JAMES HAMILTON**, Minister of the Scotch Church, Regent square, London,
The **Rev. PETER M'OWAN**, of Bristol,
and

The **Rev. FREDERICK J. JOHNSON**, of Leeds,
have kindly engaged to preach the **SERMONS** before the Society, for the present year.

In addition to the several Ministers already named,
The **Rev. Dr. NEWTON**, of Manchester,
The **Rev. THOMAS JACKSON**, of Richmond,
The **Rev. THOMAS WAUGH**, of Cork,
The **Rev. Dr. DIXON**, of London,
The **Rev. PHILIP C. TURNER**, of Richmond,
The **Rev. GEORGE B. MACDONALD**, of Leeds,
The **Rev. WILLIAM M. BUNTING**, of London,
and

The **Rev. WILLIAM FOX**, late Missionary in Western Africa, have also consented, on the invitation of the Committee, to afford their valuable assistance to the Society on Sunday, April 28th.

The times and places of the **WEEK-DAY SERVICES** which these eminent Ministers have severally undertaken are as follows:—
TUESDAY EVENING, April 23rd, at Seven o'clock, **SLOANE TERRACE CHAPEL, CHELSEA**, the **Rev. FREDERICK J. JOHNSON**.
WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 24th, at Seven o'clock, **CITY ROAD CHAPEL**, the **Rev. PETER M'OWAN**.
THURSDAY MORNING, April 25th, at Eleven o'clock, in the **LARGE ROOM of the CENTINARY HALL, BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHIN**, the **Rev. JOHN SCOTT**, President of the Conference.
FRIDAY MORNING, April 26th, at Eleven o'clock, **GREAT QUEEN STREET CHAPEL, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS**, the **Rev. JAS HAMILTON**.

The following are the Arrangements made, in connexion with this Anniversary, for **SUNDAY**, April 28th:—
CITY ROAD CHAPEL, at Half-past Ten, the **Rev. Dr. Newton**; at Six, the **Rev. George B. Macdonald**.

GREAT QUEEN STREET CHAPEL, at a Quarter before Eleven, the **Rev. Dr. Dixon**; at Three, the **Rev. William Fox**; at Six, the **Rev. Peter M'OWAN**.

SPIALFELDS CHAPEL, at Half-past Ten, the **Rev. William Fox**; at Six, the **Rev. Frederick J. Johnson**.

SOUTHWARK CHAPEL, LONG LANE, BOROUGH, at Half-past Ten, the **Rev. George B. Macdonald**; at Six, the **Rev. Philip C. Turner**.

LAMBETH CHAPEL, at Half-past Ten, the **Rev. Frederick J. Johnson**; at Six, the **Rev. Thomas Jackson**.

HIND STREET CHAPEL, MANCHESTER SQUARE, at Eleven, the **Rev. John Scott**; at Six, the **Rev. Dr. Dixon**.

SLOANE TERRACE CHAPEL, CHELSEA, at Half-past Ten, the **Rev. James Cox**, of Dominica; at Six, the **Rev. William M. Bunting**.

LIVERPOOL ROAD CHAPEL, ISLINGTON, at Half-past Ten, the **Rev. Peter M'OWAN**; at Six, the **Rev. Dr. Newton**.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Of the Society will be held in **EXETER HALL, Strand**, on **MONDAY**, April 29th, at Eleven o'clock precisely: when
The **Right Honourable Sir GEORGE ROSE, G.C.H.**,
Has kindly promised to preside.

Tickets of admission to the Meeting at Exeter Hall to be applied for at the Wesleyan Mission House, Bishopsgate street within, on Monday, 22nd April, at Eleven o'clock, and four following days.

A Collection in aid of the Society's Funds will be made after each Sermon, and in the course of the Public Meeting.

With the greatest earnestness do the Committee once more invite and urge a numerous attendance of their Friends, not merely at the General Meeting, but also at the Preparatory Religious Services, and especially at the Sermons to be preached before the Society on the preceding Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The Ministers who shall officiate in the London Chapels on the foregoing Sunday, April 21st, are respectfully requested distinctly to announce those Services, and the names of the Ministers engaged, from their respective pulpits. The Committee are solicitous to prosecute that enlarged course of usefulness which is now opened to the Society in the West Indies, in Australia, in New Zealand, in the Friendly and Feejee Islands, in Western and Southern Africa, in Ceylon and Continental India, among the Indian tribes of North America, and elsewhere, in the spirit of humble piety, and of devout dependence on Him, "without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy." They feel more strongly than ever the necessity of united supplication for the blessing of Almighty God; and are deeply anxious that all their proceedings, and especially those connected with the Anniversary, should be marked by a religious tone and character, and should be "sanctioned by the word of God and prayer." And they hope to be favoured and encouraged by the presence of many of the Country members of the Society, who, they are sure, will not fail to derive much spiritual pleasure and benefit from meeting their friends in London, in the sanctuaries of God, on an occasion of such universal interest, and from uniting with them in those sacred ordinances by which it may be most effectually hallowed, and rendered permanently advantageous to the great cause of missions. Why should not every principal Auxiliary or Branch be represented, at the ensuing General Anniversary of the Society, by some one or more of its officers or members, who may be kindly induced to undertake such a service as a *marking of deep interest* in the advancement of our Saviour's kingdom, and in the salvation of the heathen, "perishing for lack of knowledge?" A large assemblage of the Society's most active and liberal friends, from various parts of Great Britain and Ireland, on the ensuing occasion, would be at once an encouraging pledge, and a powerful instrument of future prosperity and success.

JABEZ BUNTING, } Secretaries.
JOHN BEECHAM, }
ROBERT ALDER, }
ELIJAH HOOLE, }

* * Our friends who may intend to visit London from the country, in order to participate in the approaching Missionary Services, are respectfully informed that an Address Book is opened at the Wesleyan Centenary hall and Mission house, in Bishopsgate street, under the care of the Hall-keeper, in order to receive and record their London address, whilst they shall remain in town, and thus to facilitate any desirable communication between them and the Missionary Committee and Secretaries, or other friends.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.

THE great importance of the Object, for the promotion of which the Anti-state-church Conference has been summoned, and its intimate connexion with the interests of the Church of Christ, suggest the propriety of seeking, by united prayer, the blessing of God upon its deliberations.

Under the impression that the Conference, as such, should be cleared from all arrangements likely to bring into collision doctrinal differences, and with a view, on the other hand, of affording an opportunity to all who can unite with us, of exploring the divine benediction on the undertaking we are about to commence, we have, not as members of the Executive Committee, but in our individual capacity alone, determined upon holding a prayer-meeting on Tuesday morning, April 30th, at **EAGLE STREET CHAPEL, RED LION SQUARE, HOLBORN**,

to commence at 9 o'clock precisely, at which the attendance of those friends who concur in the object is respectfully and earnestly invited.

F. A. COX, }
THOMAS PRICE, }
JAMES CARLILE, }
J. M. HARE, }
EDWARD MIALI, }
JOHN BURNETT, }
JOSIAH CONDER, }
R. ECKETT, }
T. W. JENKYN, }
A. PELLATT, }
C. STOVEL, }
J. P. SMITH, }

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.

A MEDAL is struck in Commemoration of the First Anti-state-church Conference, and may be had at the Meeting. Price of Bronze, 3s. 6d. each; White Metal, 6d. each, or 4s. 6d. per dozen.

THE ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.

AT A PUBLIC MEETING of the Rate-payers and Inhabitants of St George Colegate, NORWICH, held at the Old Library Room, St Andrew's Hall, on Friday Evening, the 19th instant.

Mr **JOHN COPEMAN** in the Chair,
The following Resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—
"That the oppressive and unjust criminal proceedings recently instituted by the Archdeacon of Norwich, against several of the most worthy inhabitants of this parish for not making a church rate, afford a strong illustration of the persecuting and unchristian spirit inseparable from an ecclesiastical establishment."

"That this Meeting is rejoiced to hear that a conference of the friends of religious liberty is about to be held in London, for the purpose of commencing a serious movement towards the dissolution of the injurious and unscriptural alliance between church and state."

"That **J. H. Tillett, Esq.**, of Norwich, and **Jeremiah Colman, Esq.**, of Dowgate hill, London, be appointed the representatives of this meeting in that conference."
April 22nd, 1844.

Perth, 16th April, 1844.

AT an aggregate **PUBLIC MEETING** of **DISSENTERS** in **PERTH** and its Vicinity, held in the North Secession Meeting-house.

Baillie GREIG in the Chair,
The Meeting having been opened with prayer by the **Rev. ROBERT THOMSON**,

It was moved by the **Rev. Dr. YOUNG**, Perth; seconded by the **Rev. Mr. MARTIN, Crieff**; and carried unanimously—
"That, considering the Conference to be opened in London on the 30th instant as justifiable in itself, and as fitted to unite the dissenters of Britain and Ireland much more closely in defence of their interests, to bring the great question of religious liberty more fully under national discussion, and in this way to prepare the public mind for a peaceable and orderly separation of the church from the state, this Meeting cordially approve of said Conference, and agree to take such measures as shall bring that approval into practical effect."

It was moved by the **Rev. ROBERT THOMSON**, Perth; seconded by **Mr. DAVID LAW**, Perth; and carried unanimously—
"That the Meeting resolve to send delegates to the Conference."

It was then moved by the **Rev. Mr. LINDSAY**, Perth; seconded by the **Rev. Mr. SOMMERVILLE, Auchtergaven**; and carried unanimously—
"That the delegates be the **Rev. Dr. Young** and the **Rev. Mr. Thomson**."

It was then moved by **HECTOR SANDERMAN, Esq.**, Tulloch; seconded by **Dr. BARLAS**, Perth; and carried unanimously—
"That the Resolutions be published in the *Perthshire Advertiser*, *Scotsman*, and *Nonconformist* newspapers."

It was finally moved by **DAVID HEPBURN, Esq.**, Writer, and carried unanimously—
"That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Chairman, and to Mr. Law, the Secretary."

The Meeting was concluded with prayer by the **Rev. Mr. SOMMERVILLE**.

WILLIAM GREIG, P.

CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION SOCIETY.

THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING will be held on **TUESDAY EVENING**, 30th April, at **FINSBURY CHAPEL**; **CHARLES HINDLEY, Esq., M.P.**, in the Chair. The business of the evening will commence at Six o'clock.

The **ANNUAL SERMON** on behalf of the Society will be preached on **WEDNESDAY EVENING**, the 1st of May, at **CRAVEN CHAPEL**, by the **Rev. JAMES HAMILTON, M.A.** The Service will commence at Half-past Six.

JOHN BLACKBURN, } Secretaries.
JOHN PITMAN, }

BRITISH AND FOREIGN SCHOOL SOCIETY.

THE THIRTY-NINTH GENERAL MEETING of the above Society, will be held in **EXETER HALL**, on **MONDAY**, MAY 6, 1844, when the **Right Hon. Lord JOHN RUSSELL, M.P.**, and **V.P.**, has engaged to take the Chair.

Platform tickets, not transferable, will be issued only to the treasurers and secretaries of the local schools, to ministers and to the leading friends of the Society, on application at the Society's house, during the preceding week. Central seat tickets will be furnished on application to all subscribers, either to the Parent Society, or any of its auxiliaries. Tickets for the body of the hall may be obtained as heretofore, of Messrs Harvey and Darton, Gracechurch street; Messrs Hatchard and Son, Piccadilly; Messrs Nisbet and Co., Berners street; Mr S. Bagster, 14, Paternoster row; Messrs Miller and Field, 6, Bridge road, Lambeth; Mr Davis, Sunday School Union Depository, 60, Paternoster row; and at the Society's house, Borough road. The Chair will be taken at Twelve o'clock precisely.

HENRY DUNN, Secretary.

BRITISH and FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Society is to be held at **EXETER HALL**, in the Strand, London, on **WEDNESDAY**, the 1st of MAY, at 11 o'clock precisely.

Tickets for the central seats, to admit either a lady or gentleman, will be granted to Clergymen or Dissenting Ministers, who are subscribers to the parent institution, or to auxiliary or branch societies; also to the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries of Auxiliary or Branch Societies; and to the Presidents, Officers, and Collectors of Ladies' Bible Associations. For the raised seats and western gallery tickets will be granted, for the use of either ladies or gentlemen, to such persons as are subscribers to this Society, whether direct or otherwise.

Attendance will be given at the Society's House, Earl street, Blackfriars, from Wednesday, April 23, to Tuesday, April 30, for the purpose of issuing tickets, upon application, between the hours of ten and three.

A. BRANDRAM, } Secretaries.
G. BROWNE, }

WORKS and MEMOIRS of the late Rev. J.

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The third will be composed of *Select Sermons and Sketches*, chiefly posthumous.

As it is proposed to commence printing in June, all who desire to become subscribers are requested to send their names and address, and the volumes or number of copies required, as early as possible, to Mr Snow, Paternoster row, London; or the **Rev. J. Fletcher, Hanley, Staffordshire**.

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